

MARKET PLUNGE



Christopher Culhane works on the floor of the NYSE, Thursday, June 20, 2013. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There was no let-up in the flight from stocks and bonds Thursday as the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 353 points and wiped out almost two months of gains.

A day after the Federal Reserve roiled U.S. financial markets when it said it could step back from its aggressive economic stimulus program later this year, financial markets continued to slide. A slowdown in Chinese manufacturing added to Wall Street's worries.

The breadth of the sell-off was seen across global financial markets, from sharply lower stock markets in Asia to falling government bond prices in Europe and the U.S. Gold also plunged.

The Dow's drop — which knocked the average down 2.3 percent to 14,758.32 — was its biggest since November 2011. It comes just three weeks after the blue-chip index reached an all-time high of 15,409.

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PURPLE HAZE



A woman wears a mask as the Singapore Central Business District is covered with haze Thursday evening, June 20, 2013. Singapore urged people to remain indoors amid unprecedented levels of air pollution Thursday as a smoky haze wrought by forest fires in neighboring Indonesia worsened dramatically.

(AP Photo/Joseph Nair)

Singapore air pollution reaches record levels

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore urged people to remain indoors because of record air pollution Thursday as a smoky haze wrought by forest fires in neighboring Indonesia worsened dramatically. Nearby Malaysia closed 200 schools and banned open burning in some areas.

The Pollutant Standards Index, Singapore's main measure of air pollution, surged to a record 371, breaching the "hazardous" classification that can aggravate respiratory ailments.

The previous high before this week was in 1997, when the index reached 226.

The hazardous reading lasted three hours before easing to 253 in the evening, still "very unhealthy."

Smog fueled by raging Indonesian blazes has hit

Singapore and Malaysia many times, often in the middle of the year, but the severity of this week's conditions has strained diplomatic ties. Officials in Singapore say Jakarta must do more to halt fires on Sumatra island started by plantation owners and farmers to clear land cheaply.

"This is now the worst haze that Singapore has ever faced," Singapore Environment Minister Vivian Balakrishnan wrote on his Facebook page. "No country or corporation has the right to pollute the air at the expense of Singaporeans' health and well-being."

An Indonesian Cabinet minister criticized the public Singaporean statements, saying they should have been conveyed through diplomatic channels.

"Singapore should not act like children, making all that noise," Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Agung Laksono said.

The haze has shrouded the city-state's skyscrapers in a pall of noxious fumes and posed numerous inconveniences for Singaporeans, some of whom complained of coughs and covered their faces with handkerchiefs or masks while walking outdoors.

Flight controllers at Singapore's Changi Airport were instructed to take precautions because of lower visibility, while McDonald's said it was temporarily halting delivery service to protect its workers' health.

Some hospitals shut windows in wards with elderly patients to keep out the acrid odor of burning. Sports organizers canceled

several football and sailing competitions this weekend. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong advised residents to stay indoors as much as possible, adding that "we will get through this together."

"Lee told a news conference that the haze was expected to continue for a while because of wind and weather conditions. He said a government panel was being formed to protect public health and the city-state's economic resilience. In neighboring Malaysia, air quality remained relatively unaffected in the country's biggest city, Kuala Lumpur, but a southern state that borders Singapore recorded "hazardous" pollution in one district, where 200 schools were ordered to close through at least Friday. □

Brazilians flood streets with protests, violent clashes

**BRADLEY BROOKS
JENNY BARCHFIELD
MARCO SIBAJA**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — More than half a million Brazilians poured into the streets of at least 80 Brazilian cities Thursday in demonstrations that saw violent clashes and renewed calls for an end to government corruption and demands for better public services. Riot police battled protesters in at least five cities, with some of the most intense clashes happening in Rio de Janeiro, where an estimated 300,000 demonstrators swarmed into the seaside city's central area. Television images showed police firing tear gas canisters and rubber bullets into crowds of young men, their faces wrapped in T-shirts. Other demonstrators were shown detained lying on sidewalks. In Brasilia, police struggled to keep hundreds of protesters from invading the Foreign Ministry, outside of which protesters lit a small fire. Other government buildings were attacked around the capital's central esplanade. There, too, police resorted to tear gas and rubber bullets in attempts to scatter the crowds. Clashes were also reported in the Amazon jungle city of Belem, in Porto Alegre in the south, in the university town Campinas north of Sao Paulo and in the northeastern Brazilian city of Salvador. "This was meant to be a peaceful demonstration and it is," said artist Wanderlei Costa, 33, in Brasilia. "It's a shame some people cause trouble when there is a much bigger message behind this movement. Brazil needs to change, not only on the government level, but also on the grass roots level. We have to learn to demonstrate without violence." The protests took place one week after a violent police crackdown on a much smaller protests in Sao Paulo galvanized Brazilians to take to the streets. The unrest is hitting the na-

tion as it hosts the Confederations Cup football tournament with tens of thousands of foreign visitors in attendance. It also comes one month before Pope Francis is scheduled to visit the nation, and ahead of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics, raising concerns about how Brazilian officials will provide security. Mass protests are rare in this 190 million-person country, with demonstrations generally attracting small numbers of politicized participants. The ongoing, growing marches have caught Brazilian governments by surprise, but have delighted many citizens. "I think we desperately need this, that we've been needing this for a very, very long time," said Paulo Roberto Rodrigues da Cunha, a 63-year-old clothing store salesman in Rio. In Salvador, police shot tear gas canisters and rubber bullets to disperse a small crowd of protesters



Girls shout slogans while holding Brazil's national flag on Paulista Avenue where crowds gathered to celebrate the reversal of a fare hike on public transportation, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Thursday, June 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Nelson Antoine)

trying to break through a police barrier blocking one of the city's streets. One woman was injured in her foot. Elsewhere in Salvador some 5,000 protesters gathered in Campo Grand Square. "We pay a lot of money in taxes, for electricity, for services, and we want to know where that money is," said Italo Santos, a 25-year old student as he walked with friends toward the square. Despite the energy on the street, many protesters said they were unsure how the movement would win real political concessions. People in the protests have held up signs asking for everything from education reforms to free bus fare while denouncing the billions of public dollars spent on stadiums in advance of the World Cup and the Olympics. "It's sort of a Catch-22," Rodrigues da Cunha said. □

Tropical Storm Barry weakens, soaks Mexico

MIGUEL HERNANDEZ
Associated Press

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP) — Tropical Storm Barry weakened to a depression after hitting Mexico's Gulf Coast on Thursday and forcing the evacuation of four towns near a river swollen by heavy rains. The second tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season had maximum sustained winds near 35 mph (55 kph) in the evening and tropical storm force gusts were possible along the coast of eastern Veracruz state. The government of Mexico discontinued the storm warnings for Veracruz but state authorities moved about 1,000 people from towns along the Rio Bobos in the northern part of the state, which was being hit by more than seven inches of rain, sending the river's level rising by more than two feet. Classes were canceled around the state but flights were operating normally out of the main airport in

the city of Veracruz and schools were expected to reopen Friday. Veracruz state Civil Protection Secretary Noemi Guzman said 2,000 shelters had been readied in the state with mattresses, blankets, water and canned food. She said the shelters at schools and recreation

centers could house up to 306,000 people. The port of Veracruz was closed to small vessels because of the strong winds, Guzman added. The storm had formed as a depression off the coast of Belize on Monday and began moving northward, dumping heavy rains on parts of that

country and northern Guatemala before entering the Gulf of Mexico off Mexico's Bay of Campeche and strengthening somewhat over warm Gulf waters. The storm was expected to begin breaking apart Friday as it crosses southern Mexico, the hurricane center said. □



Benito Garcia Velasquez stands with his family outside of their flooded home after heavy rains caused by Tropical Storm Barry in the city of Veracruz, Mexico, Thursday June 20, 2013. Barry has weakened to a tropical depression but is still producing torrential rains.

(AP Photo/Felix Marquez)

Obama nominating Comey as FBI director Friday

NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday plans to nominate President George W. Bush's former No. 2 at the Justice Department, Jim Comey, to lead the FBI as the agency grapples with privacy debates over a host of recently exposed investigative tactics.

If confirmed by the Senate, Comey would serve a 10-year tenure and replace Robert Mueller, who has held the job since the week before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Mueller is set to resign on Sept. 4 after overseeing the bureau's transformation into one the country's chief weapons against terrorism.

The White House said in a statement that Obama would announce his choice of Comey on Friday afternoon.

Comey was a federal prosecutor who served for several years as the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York before coming to Washington after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks as deputy attorney general. In

recent years he has been an executive at defense company Lockheed Martin, general counsel to a hedge fund, board member at HSBC Holdings and lecturer on national security law at Columbia University Law School.

The White House may hope that Comey's Republican background and strong credentials will help him through Senate confirmation at a time when some of Obama's nominees have been facing tough battles. Republicans have said they see no major obstacles to his confirmation, although he is certain to face tough questions about his hedge fund work, his ties to Wall Street as well as how he would handle current, high-profile FBI investigations.

The FBI is responsible for both intelligence and law enforcement with more than 36,000 employees. It has faced questions in recent weeks over media leak probes involving The Associated Press and Fox News; the Boston Marathon bombings; the attack at Benghazi, Libya,



James Comey testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. The White House says President Barack Obama plans to announce Friday his new choice to lead the FBI in Comey, former President George W. Bush's No. 2 at the Justice Department.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

that killed four Americans; and two vast government surveillance programs into phone records and online communications.

The leaker of those National

Security Agency programs, former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, also is the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation. And just this week

Mueller revealed the FBI uses drones for surveillance of stationary subjects and said the privacy implications of such operations are worthy of debate. □

US allows unrestricted morning-after pill sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved unrestricted sales of the Plan B One-Step morning-after pill, lifting all age limits on the emergency contraceptive.

The move came a week after the Obama administration ended months of back-and-forth legal battles by promising a federal judge it would take that step. Women's health advocates had pushed for easier access to next-day birth control for more than a decade.

"Over-the-counter access to emergency contraceptive products has the potential to further decrease the rate of unintended pregnancies in the United States," FDA drug chief Dr. Janet Woodcock said in a statement announcing the approval.

It wasn't clear how quick-

ly Plan B One-Step would move from behind pharmacy counters to sit on drugstore shelves. Until now, customers could buy that morning-after pill and

competing generic versions without a prescription only if they proved to a pharmacist that they were 17 or older. FDA said the product will have to be

repackaged to reflect the change; maker Teva Women's Health didn't immediately respond. FDA has not lifted age limits on competing generics.

The morning-after pill contains a higher dose of the hormone in regular birth control pills. Taking it within 72 hours of rape, condom failure or just forgetting regular contraception can cut the chances of pregnancy by up to 89 percent, but it works best within the first 24 hours. If a girl or woman already is pregnant, the pill, which prevents ovulation or fertilization of an egg, has no effect.

Back in 2011, the FDA was preparing to allow over-the-counter sales of emergency contraceptives with no limits when Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius overruled her own scientists in an unprecedented move.

She said she worried that girls as young as 11 could use the pill with no supervision, a concern that President Barack Obama echoed.

In April, U.S. District Judge Edward Korman blasted that decision as putting politics ahead of science and ordered the FDA to allow unrestricted sales of emergency contraceptives. He said hardly any 11-year-olds would use the pill, which costs about \$50. The Obama administration lost a round in the appeals court, too, before telling the judge it would approve the one-pill brand.

Doctors' groups and contraceptive advocates have long argued that easier access to emergency contraceptives would cut unintended pregnancies and said the drugs are safe even when used at young ages. □



A package of Plan B One-Step, an emergency contraceptive. The morning-after pill is finally going over-the-counter. The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday, June 20, 2013, approved unrestricted sales of Plan B One-Step, lifting all age limits on the emergency contraceptive. The move came a week after the Obama administration ended months of back-and-forth legal battles by promising a federal judge it would take that step.

(AP Photo/Barr Pharmaceuticals Inc.)

Justices:

U.S. cannot impose anti-prostitution condition on AIDS grants

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - Groups receiving federal financing to combat AIDS abroad may not be required to adopt policies opposing prostitution, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

Under a 2003 law, the federal government has distributed billions of dollars to

private groups to help fight AIDS, imposing two conditions in the process. First, the money may not be used "to promote or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution and sex trafficking." That condition was not before the court.

The question for the justices was whether the second condition, requir-

ing recipients to have "a policy explicitly opposing prostitution and sex trafficking," passed constitutional muster. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing for a six-justice majority, said the condition ran afoul of the First Amendment because it required recipients "to pledge allegiance to the government's policy of

eradicating prostitution."

He said the groups challenging the law feared that "adopting a policy explicitly opposing prostitution may alienate certain host governments, and may diminish the effectiveness of some of their programs by making it more difficult to work with prostitutes."

Marine Buissonniere, the director of the Open Society Public Health Program, one of the groups that challenged the condition, said the policy was counterproductive.

"Public health groups cannot tell sex workers that we 'oppose' them, yet expect them to be partners in preventing HIV," she said in a statement. "Condemnation and alienation are not public health strategies."

Roberts acknowledged that the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on "unconstitutional conditions" was confusing. As a general matter, he said, the government has no obligation to spend money, just as recipients are not required to take the government's money. But sometimes, he wrote, "a funding condition can result in an unconstitutional burden on First Amendment rights."

"The line is hardly clear," the chief justice wrote, but it is crossed when the government seeks "to leverage funding to regulate speech outside the contours of the program itself."

The condition requiring groups receiving AIDS money to adopt an anti-prostitution policy was on the wrong side of the line, he said.

"A recipient cannot avow the belief dictated" by the government, he wrote, "and then turn around and assert a contrary belief, or claim neutrality, when participating in activities on its own time and dime."

Roberts rejected an argument by the Obama administration that the requirement to adopt a policy was needed to protect the prohibition on the use of government money to promote prostitution. Money is

fungible, the administration said, and the availability of government money could free up private money to promote prostitution.

The Supreme Court accepted a similar argument in *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*, a 2010 decision that said the First Amendment did not protect benign assistance in the form of speech to groups that the government said had engaged in terrorism. Roberts, who wrote the majority opinion in the 2010 case, said the earlier case was different because there had been evidence that "support for those organizations' non-violent operations was funneled to support their violent activities."

Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Samuel A. Alito Jr. and Sonia Sotomayor joined the majority decision Thursday.

In dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia said the contested condition did nothing more than allow the government to "enlist the assistance of those who believe in its ideas."

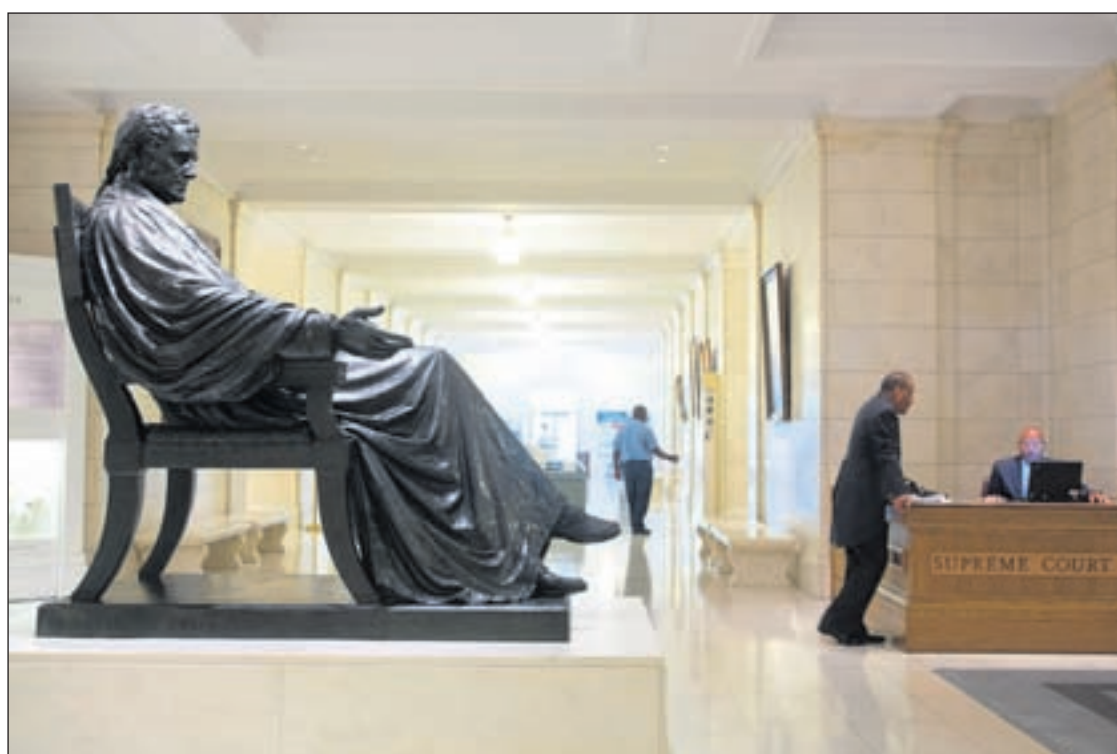
"That," he continued, "seems to me a matter of the most common common sense."

He gave an example: "A federal program to encourage healthy eating habits need not be administered by the American Gourmet Society." "The First Amendment," he wrote, "does not mandate a viewpoint-neutral government."

Justice Clarence Thomas joined the dissent.

Justice Elena Kagan recused herself from the case - *Agency for International Development v. Alliance for Open Society International*, No. 12-10 - presumably because she had worked on it as the U.S. solicitor general.

In 2011, a divided three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in New York, blocked the law, saying it "compels grantees to espouse the government's position on a controversial issue." □



A statue of Chief Justice John Marshall at the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, June 20, 2013. The Supreme Court ruled on a requirement that AIDS groups receiving federal money adopt "a policy explicitly opposing prostitution," and found that the regulation violates free speech.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

US surveillance leak says citizens' data kept

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. National Security Agency can keep copies of intercepted communications from or about U.S. citizens if the material contains significant intelligence or evidence of crimes, according to top-secret documents published Thursday by The Guardian newspaper.

The new details are the latest leaked by a 29-year-old former NSA contractor who fled to Hong Kong and has been divulging previously secret programs for collecting U.S. phone records and Internet data.

President Barack Obama and other top officials have defended the programs, which again have raised the debate over national security and individual pri-

vacy.

Attention turned Thursday to the security clearance background check conducted on Edward Snowden, and a government watchdog testified there may have been problems with it.

USIS, the company that conducted the security clearance investigation of the former NSA systems analyst, is now under investigation itself, Patrick McFarland, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's inspector general, told a Senate hearing. He declined to say what triggered the inquiry, but when asked if there were concerns about Snowden's background check, McFarland answered: "Yes, we do believe that there may be some problems."

USIS said in a statement that it has never been informed that it is under criminal investigation, and it declined to comment on whether it conducted a background investigation of Snowden.

The new documents revealed by The Guardian concern the scope of two recently disclosed NSA programs — one that gathers U.S. phone records and another that is designed to track the use of U.S.-based Internet servers by foreigners with possible links to terrorism. The documents were signed by the country's top lawyer, Attorney General Eric Holder. They include point-by-point directions on how an NSA employee must work to determine that a person being targeted has not entered the United States. □

US Senate near breakthrough on immigration bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans and Democrats neared a breakthrough on a military-style surge to secure the U.S.-Mexican border, an agreement that

immigrants a chance at citizenship after years in the shadows.

A final vote on the legislation, which leads President Barack Obama's second-term domestic policy

for a doubling of the Border Patrol, with 20,000 new agents, 18 new unmanned surveillance drones, 350 miles (563 kilometers) of new fencing and an array of fixed and mobile devices

Lindsey Graham.

The next move would be up to the House of Representatives, where opposition Republicans in the majority in the chamber are overwhelmingly opposed to granting citizenship to immigrants living in the United States illegally. Talks on any final compromise would be held later this year — if then.

The White House declined to respond to requests for comment on the Senate proposal, even though congressional officials said administration officials were involved in the formal drafting of the terms.

Under the emerging deal, an estimated 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally would be eligible to obtain legal status

while border security is increased.

They could not be awarded green cards, which bestow permanent residency status, until the entire border enhancement plan is put into place.

The American Civil Liberties Union called the proposed agreement a "massive deployment of force" that would be "simply devastating for border communities."

Apart from the border security measures, the legislation as drafted already included implementation of a biometric system to track the comings and goings of foreigners at air and sea ports as well as land crossings, and a requirement for businesses to verify the legal status of job seekers. □



Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots, listens at left, as Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., speaks at a news conference hosted by the Tea Party Patriots to oppose the Senate immigration reform bill, Thursday, June 20, 2013, on Capitol Hill in Washington. White House-backed immigration legislation gained momentum in the Senate on Thursday as lawmakers closed in on a bipartisan compromise to spend tens of billions of dollars stiffening border security without delaying legalization for millions living in the country unlawfully.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

would help the passage of a sweeping U.S. immigration bill to give millions of

agenda, is expected by the end of next week. The emerging deal called

es to maintain vigilance. "We have militarized our border, almost," said Sen.

Victims' relatives testify in Bulger trial

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A woman who survived a gangland hit that left her boyfriend paralyzed and his friend dead choked back tears Thursday at the trial of reputed former mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger as she recalled ducking down in the front seat of a new Mercedes Benz when she heard a hail of gunfire.

Diane Sussman de Tennen, who was shot in the arm, was the first of a series of witnesses who described being wounded or losing a loved one in shootings allegedly orchestrated by Bulger and his gang. Family members of several victims gave emotional testimony describing how they learned their relatives had been killed. Bulger, now 83, is charged with playing a role in 19 killings during the

'70s and '80s while allegedly the boss of the mostly Irish-American Winter Hill Gang. He has pleaded not guilty and his lawyers have said his former associates have fabricated or exaggerated his role to get reduced sentences for their own crimes. Bulger became one of the nation's most wanted fugitives after he fled Boston in 1994. Prosecutors say Bulger had secretly worked as a high-level FBI informant and provided information on members of the rival Italian-American Mafia, once the top federal crime-fighting priority. Sussman de Tennen said she was in a car driven by Michael Milano — a 30-year-old bartender — on March 8, 1973, when a car pulled up to them at a stop light in Boston's North End neighborhood.

"All of a sudden, there was

this noise, a continuous stream of gunfire. ... It was just nonstop," she said.

After the noise ended, she got up and saw Milano, who was leaning forward into the steering wheel.

"I looked at him and I asked him if he was OK, and I got no response," she said.

When she looked in the backseat, she saw that her boyfriend, Louis Lapiano, was seriously wounded. She later learned that he was paralyzed by the shooting and spent the next 28 years as a quadriplegic before he died in 2001. Prosecutors say Milano was killed because he was mistaken for another man who was the intended target.

Milano's brother, Donald, also testified, crying as he recalled how he was on his way to work when he heard on the radio that his brother had been killed. □

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Report to Congress defends liberal arts education

JENNIFER SCHUESSLER
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A new national corps of "master teachers" trained in the humanities and social sciences and increased support for research in "endangered" liberal arts subjects are among the recommendations of a major report to be delivered on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. The report comes amid concern about low humanities enrollments and worries that the Obama administration's emphasis on science education risks diminishing a huge source of the nation's intellectual strength. Requested by a bipartisan group of legislators and scheduled to be distributed to every member of Congress, it is intended as a rallying cry against the entrenched idea that the humanities and social sciences are luxuries that employment-minded students can ill afford.

People talk about the humanities and social sciences "as if they are a waste of time," said Richard H. Brodhead, the president of Duke University and a co-chairman of the commission that produced the report. "But this facile negativism forgets that many of the country's most successful and creative people had exactly this kind of education."

Those people, Brodhead pointed out, include both President Barack Obama (political science major) and Mitt Romney (English), as well as most of the 54 members of the commission, which includes distinguished jurists, business leaders, artists, scholars, university presidents and politicians, many of whom offer stirring testimonials on the value of their own liberal arts training.

The 61-page report, called "The Heart of the Matter," which was shepherded by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and based on meetings held around the country during two years, arrives trailing some of its own controversy, thanks to recent allegations that Leslie C. Berlowitz, the academy's president,

had misrepresented her scholarly credentials. But, more crucially, it lands at a time when the humanities and social sciences are themselves often accused of being frivolous at best, fraudulent at worst.

Last fall, a task force organized by Gov. Rick Scott of Florida caused a national outcry with the recommendation that state universities charge higher tuition to students in fields - like anthropology or English - deemed less likely to lead to jobs. At the same time, Republicans in Congress have repeatedly tried to eliminate financing for political science research through the National Science Foundation except for that deemed to be essential for national security. And a report this month by Harvard University, long a bastion of the liberal arts,

drew alarm with statistics showing that only 20 percent of its undergraduates in 2012 were majoring in the humanities, a drop from 36 percent in 1954.

Nationwide, a mere 7.6 percent of bachelor's degrees were granted in the humanities in 2010, a figure that several people connected with the report said reflects understandable but exaggerated fears about job prospects.

"We are preparing students to be employable," said Eduardo J. Padrón, a commission member and the president of Miami-Dade College, a mostly two-year institution, whose 175,000 students include many immigrants and low-income students. But without the humanities and social sciences, he added, "they are missing something important." The com-

mission, whose other co-chairman is John W. Rowe, former chairman of the en-

report highlights a survey showing that 51 percent of business leaders regard lib-



Florida Gov. Rick Scott, who was a business major in college, during a news conference in Miami, Feb. 22, 2013. A new report on the humanities comes amid concern about low humanities enrollments and worries that the Obama administration's emphasis on science education risks diminishing a huge source of the nation's intellectual strength.
(Angel Valentin/The New York Times)

ergy company Exelon, puts strong emphasis on the pragmatic value of the humanities. One chart in the

eral education as "very important," while 74 percent unequivocally want it for their own children. □

Online classes fuel a campus debate

TAMAR LEWIN
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The announcement last month that Coursera, which offers free college classes online, had signed agreements with state universities enrolling more than a million students

better learning, lower costs and higher graduation rates - or to the dismantling of public universities, downgraded or eliminated faculty jobs, and a second-class education for most students.

Many universities have



Daphne Koller, a Coursera founder, at the company's offices in Mountain View, Calif. A heated discussion has emerged over whether free online college classes, like the ones offered by Coursera, will lead to better learning and lower costs — or to a second-class education for most students.

(Ramin Rahimian/The New York Times)

made it plain that such courses, virtually unheard of two years ago, are now part of the higher education mainstream.

But along the way, a rancorous debate has emerged over whether such courses will lead to

been quick to sign up with outside providers to offer the "massive open online courses," known as MOOCs, either as stand-alone courses or in a hybrid format, with the online materials supplemented by a local faculty member.

While they portray their online offerings as exploratory, many administrators hope the courses will help them expand their reach, rein in tuition and offer better instruction.

Now a new discussion has begun about whether universities should collaborate to develop and share their courses and technology, rather than working with outside providers. This week, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, a group of provosts from Big 10 universities, issued a position paper saying that higher education must take advantage of new education technology - but perhaps on its own. On a small scale, CIC members' CourseShare program already does that, with members sharing classes in less commonly taught languages.

"Many of us feel more comfortable building our own infrastructure, rather than relying on a for-profit company," said Karen Hanson, provost of the University of Minnesota and the committee's chairwoman. "We think we want to remain in control of our own intellec-

tual property."

On many campuses, faculty oppose the spread of MOOCs, angry that their universities joined in with little consultation, undercutting the tradition of shared governance. Others argue that MOOCs will shortchange students, replacing the personal relationships that encourage learning.

In April, Duke University pulled out of Semester Online, a consortium of universities sharing online courses, hosted by 2U, the online education platform, after the faculty voted down the project.

At San Jose State University, which has led the way in allowing the MOOCs to be used for credit, the philosophy department last month wrote an open letter to Michael Sandel, a Harvard professor whose online Justice course it refused to use, laying out its concerns about the impact of such courses.

"Let us not kid ourselves," the letter said, "administrators at CSU are beginning a process of replacing faculty with cheap online education." □

House defeat of farm bill lays bare Republican rift

RON NIXON

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WASHINGTON - The surprise defeat of the farm bill in the House on Thursday underscored the ideological divide between the more conservative, anti-spending Republican lawmakers and their leadership, who failed to garner sufficient

of the nation's food and farm programs. Sixty-two Republicans, or more than a quarter of the caucus, voted with Democrats to defeat the bill.

The failure was a stinging defeat for Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio, who continues to have trouble marshaling the Republican

concerned with nutrition spending and rural members focused on farm programs. But conservatives said they were more driven by a desire to shrink the size of government through spending cuts, not expand it though crop insurance subsidies to rich farmers.

"While it might have been

is too big and would have passed welfare policy on the backs of farmers."

After the vote, Republicans and Democrats took turns on the floor blaming each other for the bill's failure.

"You took a bipartisan bill and turned it into a partisan bill," Rep. Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, the House's No. 2 Democrat, said. "It's unfortunate for farmers, for consumers and our country." Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., the House majority leader, said Democrats had "undone years and years of bipartisan work and made it partisan."

It was unclear if House leaders would try to revive the bill, even as Senate leaders chided the House for failing to pass it.

"Twice the Senate has overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan farm bill that reforms farm programs, ends direct payments, cuts spending and creates American agriculture jobs," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., the chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "The House needs to find a way to get a five-year farm bill done."

The House bill would have cut projected spending in farm and nutrition programs by nearly \$40 billion over the next 10 years. Just more than half, \$20.5 billion, would come from cuts to the food stamp

program, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The House bill, like the Senate's, would have eliminated the \$5 billion-a-year subsidies paid to farmers and landowners whether they plant crops or not. The billions of dollars saved would be directed into the \$9 billion crop insurance program, and new subsidies would be created for peanut, cotton and rice farmers. The bill adds money to support fruit and vegetable growers, and it restores insurance programs for livestock producers, which expired in 2011, leaving thousands of operations without disaster coverage during last year's drought.

Not surprisingly, the nearly \$75 billion food stamp program was the focus of most of the farm bill debate. Democrats, led by Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, said that the cuts to the program were too steep and introduced an amendment that would scale them back by cutting funds for crop insurance. Lawmakers rejected the amendment, 234-188.

The lawmakers did pass two amendments, one to allow states to drug test food stamp applicants, and the other to require food stamp recipients to meet federal welfare-work requirements. □



House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) center, leaves the House floor after a vote on the House farm bill, on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 20, 2013. Opposition by Democrats to cuts in the food stamp program helped lead to the defeat of the bill on Thursday, raising questions about financing for the nation's farm and nutrition programs this year.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

votes from their caucus as well as from Democrats.

The vote against the bill, 234-195, comes a year after House leaders pulled the measure off the calendar because conservative lawmakers demanded deeper cuts in the food stamp program and Democrats objected. This year's measure called for more significant cuts than the Senate bill, but it still did not go far enough to get a majority in the House to support an overhaul

support he needs to pass major legislation. Without the solid backing of his party, Boehner has to rely on some Democratic support, which deserted him Thursday.

Boehner was unable to secure the votes of a number of recently elected and strongly conservative lawmakers who were averse to cutting deals on legislation like the farm bill. Traditionally, the farm bill has passed easily with support from urban lawmakers

called a 'farm bill,' the American people understand that it was anything but," said Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Ind., who was elected in 2010 with Tea Party support. "This trillion-dollar spending bill



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AP Exclusive:

Taliban proposes exchange deal to free US soldier

**KATHY GANNON
KAY JOHNSON
Associated Press
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**
— The Taliban proposed a

turn to the battlefield, and Karzai once scuttled a similar deal partly because he felt the Americans were usurping his authority.

with the U.S., said Suhail, a top Taliban figure who served as first secretary at the Afghan Embassy in the Pakistani capital of Islam-

“We’ve been very clear on our feelings about Sgt. Bergdahl and the need for him to be released,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. “We have not made a decision to ... transfer any Taliban detainees from Guantanamo Bay, but we anticipate, as I’ve said, that the Taliban will all raise this issue.” Bergdahl, 27, of Hailey, Idaho, is the only known American soldier held captive from the Afghan war. He disappeared from his base in southeastern Afghanistan on June 30, 2009, and is believed held in Pakistan. Suhail said Bergdahl “is, as far as I know, in good condition.” Donna Thibedeau-Eddy, who has spent the last few days at the Idaho home of the soldier’s parents, Bob and Jani Bergdahl, said the family was hopeful. “I was with his Mom and Dad this morning when they got the news of the exchange offer. They were ecstatic,” said Thibedeau-Eddy. “They actually saw the news before they got the call from the military. Bob saw it online and said ‘Jani, Donna, look at this.’” While there have been talks before, Bob Bergdahl is putting more faith and hope into the latest developments because it appears the Taliban are taking the initiative, Thibedeau-Eddy said. Bergdahl’s parents received a letter this month from their son through the International Committee of the Red Cross. They did not release details of the letter. The soldier’s captivity has been marked by only sporadic releases of videos and information about his whereabouts. The reconciliation process

with the Taliban — seen by most as the only way to end the nearly 12-year war — has been a long and bumpy one. The U.S. began secret talks with the militants more than two years ago in off-and-on discussions that lasted several months. The two sides discussed prisoner exchanges and for a brief time it appeared that the five Guantanamo Bay prisoners would be released and sent to Qatar to help further the peace process. But Karzai, furious that he had not been told of the talks in advance, demanded that the Taliban operatives be returned to Afghanistan rather than Qatar. Since then, the U.S. has been trying to jumpstart peace talks and the Taliban have made several offers — including sharing power in Kabul. The Taliban have also attended several international conferences and held meetings with representatives of about 30 countries. Afghan and U.S. officials have said the Taliban being considered for any exchange deal are: — Mohammad Fazl, a former Taliban chief of army staff and the deputy minister of defense. — Abdul Haq Wasiq, former Taliban deputy minister of intelligence. He was in direct contact with supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar during the Taliban rule, according to military documents. — Mullah Norullah Nuri, who has been described as one of the most significant former Taliban officials held at Guantanamo. □



The image of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl of Hailey, Idaho, who is being held captive in Afghanistan, is worn by an audience member as Bergdahl’s father Bob, not pictured, speaks at the annual Rolling Thunder rally for POW/MIA awareness, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

deal in which they would free a U.S. soldier held captive since 2009 in exchange for five of their most senior operatives at Guantanamo Bay, while Afghan President Hamid Karzai eased his opposition Thursday to joining planned peace talks. The idea of releasing these Taliban prisoners has been controversial. U.S. negotiators hope they would join the peace process but fear they might simply re-

The proposal to trade U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for the Taliban detainees was made by senior Taliban spokesman Shaheen Suhail in response to a question during a phone interview with The Associated Press from the militants’ newly opened political office in Doha, the capital of the Gulf nation of Qatar. The prisoner exchange is the first item on the Taliban’s agenda before even starting peace talks

abad before the Taliban government’s ouster in 2001. “First has to be the release of detainees,” Suhail said Thursday when asked about Bergdahl. “Yes. It would be an exchange. Then step by step, we want to build bridges of confidence to go forward.” The Obama administration was noncommittal about the proposal, which it said it had expected the Taliban to make.

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EU agree rules for bank rescues by bailout fund



Pensioners holding signs saying left to right, "Nobody without home. Stop evictions", "Not the troika, not experts. Pensions yes", and "Don't be stealing our pension", during a protest against austerity measures and cut plans against state pensions, in Pamplona northern Spain. Spain has been in recession for the best part of the past four years as the economy battles to recover from the collapse. (AP Photo/Alvaro Barrientos)

JUERGEN
RAF CASERT

Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Euro finance ministers on Thursday agreed on broad guidelines on how to use the bloc's permanent bailout fund to rescue banks from failure, delivering on a long-promised goal to stabilize the bloc's financial system. Enabling the 500 billion euro (\$670 billion) rescue fund to shore

BAETZ

up struggling banks directly is a pillar of the 17-nation eurozone's so-called banking union, which seeks to hand European institutions the job of supervision and rescue rather than leaving weaker member states to fend for themselves.

"We have made an important step on the way to the banking union by agreeing on the main points for a future regime for direct bank recapitalization," said Ger-

man Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble.

"We need the banking union to improve the trust of the financial markets in the stability of the Eu-

ropean banking system," Schaeuble said. It will still take some time for the European Stability Mechanism to kick in and Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan estimated it at "12 months or so." Several ministers also cautioned that despite a political agreement on the broad strokes, many operational details have yet to be hammered out, and it might take even longer. The groundwork for the banking union was made by EU leaders a year ago at the height of the eurozone's three-year-old debt crisis. However, some countries, led by financial heavyweight Germany, have since sought to slow down the project and limit its scope. They fear that they might have to spend their taxpayers' money to rescue ailing banks in countries which didn't oversee the sector properly in the first place.

The initial idea of the banking union was to ensure

that ailing banks don't wreck a nation's finances to the point that it might be forced to seek a bailout itself, as in the case of Ireland or Cyprus.

"This instrument will help preserve the stability of the euro area and help removing the risk of contagion from the financial sector" to the states, said Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who chairs the Eurogroup, the meeting of finance ministers from the 17 European Union countries that use the euro. However, the ESM's firepower to recapitalize banks will be limited to 60 billion euros (\$79.3 billion) to maintain the fund's top-notch credit rating, which it needs to raise money on the international bond markets. Also, funding from the ESM would only be made available once the bank's creditors had been tapped fully and the lender's government can no longer afford to prop it up. □

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Quebec fireworks factory blast kills 2

BENJAMIN SHINGLER
Associated Press

MONTREAL, Quebec (AP)

— A massive explosion at a fireworks warehouse killed two workers Thursday, police said, leaving a huge plume of smoke blanketing an area west of Montreal. A series of explosions spread from the charred building after the initial blast at B.E.M. Fireworks near Valleyfield, Quebec. Images from the scene showed a building near a major highway completely destroyed. Provincial police said two

amount of flames and very intense heat," Massicotte told reporters.

He said 150 firefighters were used to battle the flames, which were under control by early Thursday afternoon. Reporters on the ground also indicated that there were no fire hydrants in the vicinity.

"All of a sudden I heard, 'boom, boom, bang,'" Mario Cramerstetter said from his office, which is just over a mile (1.6 kilometers) away from the site.

"Initially I thought it was a bulldozer or a tractor but

and saw the big, incredible smoke," she said. "It went high up in the air, then it became black, black, black."

Police ordered the surrounding community of Coteau-du-Lac evacuated. A nearby highway was also closed in both directions.

Police also said low traces of metal materials were found in the surrounding area. Video captured by a news helicopter showed fireworks igniting inside the remnants of the smoldering building.



Firefighters gather at the scene of an explosion at the B.E.M. fireworks factory Thursday, June 20, 2013 in Coteau-du-Lac, Quebec. Two people were killed in a massive explosion at the fireworks warehouse that rattled homes and sent up a cloud of smoke that could be seen for miles outside Montreal.
(AP Photo/Stephane Brunet)

bodies were found in the wreckage but they did not identify them.

Nearly two hours after the blast, fireworks could still be heard exploding at the scene of the fire that continued to burn out of control hours after the explosion, according to witnesses.

Local fire chief Stephane Massicotte said since the warehouse was filled with pyrotechnics it was difficult to battle the blaze.

"This caused a huge

then we saw a big puff smoke. We kept on hearing popping, fireworks going off all the time."

Cramerstetter said it looked like a small building caught fire first and then spread to a larger storage unit.

"We got really, really, really scared," said Ginette Liboiron, who runs a convenience store across a highway overpass.

"I thought my store was falling to the ground. It shook like you can't imagine... We all went outside to see

According to its website, B.E.M. has been designing and manufacturing pyrotechnics and fireworks for 25 years.

Robert Sauve, the mayor of Coteau-du-Lac, said the business has about 20 employees and the owner lives in the community, less than an hour's drive southwest of Montreal.

"This was a very respectable business, and it seems what happened this morning was an accident," he told reporters. □

Palestinian PM submits resignation after 2 weeks

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— The new Palestinian prime minister submitted his resignation to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday, after two weeks on the job, because of a conflict over authority.

It was unclear if Rami Hamdallah, a former university dean, would step down or was using the threat of resignation to obtain more powers from Abbas.

Hamdallah's move signaled disarray in the Palestinian Authority, the self-rule government in parts of the West Bank, and is potentially embarrassing for Abbas.

Abbas received the resignation and will consider it, said Nabil Abu Rdenah, an adviser to the president.

The prime minister heads the Palestinian Authority which handles day-to-day affairs of Palestinians.

Abbas is in charge overall and deals with diplomacy, particularly efforts to restart negotiations with Israel on the terms of a Palestinian state. Those talks broke down in 2008, but U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has been trying to restart them.

Hamdallah took office June 6 after unexpectedly being plucked by Abbas from a career in academia to replace internationally known Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, who resigned in April. Abbas gave Hamdallah two deputies, one for political and one for economic affairs, apparently to make up for his lack of political experience. □

Germany blocks Turkey's EU talks

JUERGEN BAETZ

Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG (AP)

— Germany has blocked the next step in the European Union's membership talks with Turkey over Ankara's crackdown on anti-government protests, a diplomat from an EU nation said Thursday. Berlin blocked the decision to open a new chapter in the long-running accession talks because "there are still open questions," said the diplomat. The decision comes as a blow to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkish government, which faces increasing international scrutiny over its crackdown on several weeks of protests in Istanbul and other cities.

Pushing ahead with the EU accession talks as scheduled next week would have required unanimous

approval at a meeting of top diplomats representing the EU's 27 member nations in Brussels on Thursday. But Germany and another nation expressed reservations and blocked the move, the diplomat said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the closed-door meeting publicly. The diplomat declined to name the second nation. Human rights groups have said that the protests in Turkey have left more than 5,000 people injured and more than 3,000 were detained, then released. The anti-government demonstrations were sparked by a police crackdown on environmental activists in Istanbul on May 31, but also criticized what some regard as Erdogan's authoritarian style of leadership. □



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Greek PM says determined to avoid early elections

DEREK GATOPOULOS
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's prime minister said Friday he's determined to avoid early elections despite a deep rift with a coalition ally, which threatened new political instability in the bailed-out country and prompted warnings from international creditors. One year into his mandate, at the head of a three-party coalition formed to stave off financial collapse, Antonis Samaras said his overriding priority was to persevere with reforms demanded to keep the country's rescue loans flowing. "We have three years left, and we will see them through," Samaras said in an address televised live. The political crisis was sparked by Samaras' unpopular decision last week to yank the state-run broadcaster ERT off the air to save money — axing all 2,656 jobs. Both his center-left minority partners objected strongly, but matters came to a head late Thursday when the Democratic Left party rejected a compromise that Socialist Pasok accepted.

"I want us to proceed all together, as we started," Samaras said after the negotiations broke down. "But I will forge ahead in any case."

With Pasok, Samaras' conservatives have a slim parliamentary majority that would allow the government to pass key reforms, including the pledged sackings of some 15,000 public sector employees by 2015. It was not immediately clear whether the Democratic Left would remain in the coalition. Austerity inspectors from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund are in the course of

reviewing Greece's progress with reforms, and will return to Athens by early July.

The European Union's top economics official, Olli Rehn, said the ball is in Greece's court.

"It is very important that the Greek government and the administration identify the technical work on the fiscal policies and the structural reforms that need to be adopted before the review can be completed," he said after a meeting of eurozone finance ministers in Luxembourg late Thursday. Rehn argued that recent stability in Athens has yielded encouraging signs of a recovery for the recession-mired Greek economy.

"I do hope for the sake of the Greek people that this stability will be preserved," he said. "I want to appeal to the sense of responsibility of political leaders in Greece." IMF spokesman Gerry Rice warned that Greece has just over a month to deliver quickly with pledged reforms to ensure smooth release of bailout payments.

"If the review is concluded by the end of July, as expected, no financing problems will arise because the program is financed till end-July 2014," he said.

ERT, whose workforce costs have been considerably trimmed over the past three years, is funded by obligatory contributions from all Greeks — whether they own a TV set or not — and by advertising revenue. After years of murky finances, the corporation is now turning a modest profit, and critics argue that sacking its entire workforce makes no financial sense, particularly as the state budget will have to bear the cost of compensating all laid-off workers. □



Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras arrives to his office prior a meeting with his two center-left minority partners, in Athens, on Thursday, June 20, 2013. Conservative Prime Minister Antonis Samaras is due to meet center-left coalition partners for a third time this week to decide on the fate of the future public TV and radio company and its nearly 2,700 employees, which it closed down nine days ago. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

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Bomber targets election center after Iraqis vote

ADAM SCHRECK
SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press
FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) —
A suicide bomber blew

the country's most volatile provinces that had already been delayed once over security fears. The attacker struck at the

A decision by the central government to postpone elections there had raised concerns that voters there would be disenfranchised,

candidates who will serve on provincial-level councils. Iraq is weathering its worst spike in violence in half a decade, with nearly 2,000 people killed since the start of April. Much of the violence is the work of the Sunni extremist al-Qaida branch in Iraq.

The bombing happened in Ramadi, the provincial capital of Anbar, 115 kilometers (70 miles) west of Baghdad. There were conflicting casualty tolls. Two police officers in Anbar said at least four people were killed and five more were wounded. Talib Humadi, a councilman from Anbar, said the blast killed seven people.

Authorities quickly imposed a curfew throughout the province after the attack. Earlier, police said a mortar attack killed one person in Ramadi while polls were open. The police officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to reporters.

Iraq has successfully held elections in adverse conditions in the past by surging security forces onto the streets for short periods of time. But Anbar and Ninevah posed a special challenge, as the two provinces have seen some of the largest rallies in a months-long wave of Sunni anti-government protests as

well as attacks by militants and multiple assassinations of candidates.

In Fallujah, 65 kilometers (40 miles) west of the Iraqi capital, checkpoints sealed off the city and prevented cars from getting in. Streets in the morning were empty except for ambulances, police and army vehicles, and a small number of cars permitted by electoral authorities.

Voters trickling into polling centers were searched twice before being allowed in. Police offered some voters rides to the polls in pickup trucks, as did political parties using minibuses emblazoned with pictures of candidates.

Fallujah voter Fuad Enad Mohammed, 26, said he wanted to see change for his Sunni sect in Anbar.

"With these elections, we will try to bring officials better than the ones in the previous council who didn't offer anything and were not real defenders of Sunnis," he said.

Local authorities eventually lifted the vehicle bans in the afternoon, apparently to encourage people to head to the voting centers by car instead of walking under the scorching sun.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad hailed the vote as "an important step toward solidifying Iraq's democratic future." □



Iraqi citizens are searched before casting their votes during the country's provincial elections in Fallujah, Iraq, Thursday, June 20, 2013. Iraqis in two Sunni-dominated provinces voted Thursday in provincial elections marked by tight security measures that left streets in former insurgent strongholds largely deserted.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

himself up inside a ballot-counting center in western Iraq late Thursday, officials said, killing at least four people after the polls closed in elections in two of

end of what had been a relatively calm election day in Sunni-majority Anbar and Ninevah provinces, both hotbeds of anti-government unrest.

adding to their grievances with the Shiite-led government.

Security had been a top concern ahead of Thursday's vote. Thousands of policemen and soldiers were deployed to secure the elections, and authorities imposed a vehicle ban in major cities in the two provinces to protect against car bombings as voting got underway for



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Venezuela:

Tax official detained in corruption probe

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A top official at Venezuela's tax collection agency has been arrested on suspicion of corruption and cash worth hundreds of thousands of dollars was seized from an apartment, President Nicolas Maduro said Thursday.

Maduro said in televised comments during a visit to the western state of Lara that the National Integrated Service of Tax Administration official was detained Wednesday evening.

He did not identify the person by name but said a search of a "luxurious" flat

in eastern Caracas turned up the equivalent of about \$630,000 in bolivares, Venezuela's currency.

Maduro used a phrase that translates roughly as "caught with their hand in the cookie jar."

"I am announcing a battle against corruption. ... Do you think we can move toward socialism ... with corrupt people like this?" Maduro said.

Two weeks ago an official at the agency that oversees pricing was also arrested, on suspicion of extortion and illegal weapons possession. Maduro's government has said entrenched

corruption is one of the nation's biggest problems over the decades.

However, opposition leaders charge that graft only got worse during the 14 years that the late President Hugo Chavez was in office, and accuse authorities of doing little combat it and even profiting themselves.

"They want us to believe there's an iron hand against corruption," recent opposition presidential candidate Henrique Capriles said on Twitter. "If that were the case, there would be no government! It's pure appearance!" □



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cruises, has long been a favorite activity of guests on Aruba. Word-of-mouth approval has translated into online praise, and has brought Jolly Pirates and its crew recognition from the world's largest travel site. Trip Advisor has ranked Jolly Pirates among the top performing establishments from around the world, bestowing on it its Certificate of Excellence. Captains Ronal, Julio and Edwin have delighted Jolly Pirates guests for more than ten years with their interactive hi-jinks. "We literally perform flips in providing our guests the most memorable Sail and Snorkel experience on the island," explains Fajardo. Trip Advisor's Certificate of Excellence serves as further confirmation as to the winning ways of the entire high-spirited Jolly Pirates team. Of the thousands of businesses listed on Trip



At Caribbean Queen Palm Beach Plaza Mall:

Caribbean Queen for June is Artist Sandra Ospina



statue of a soldier gracing the entrance to the army base. He also exhibited a gallery of pictures, including Palmira's famous people and places, and created a life-size nativity scene, which was displayed in town each year. Sandra remembers that her dad was also commissioned by the Catholic Church to restore all art pieces within a cathedral, and as a little girl, she followed in his foot-



PALM BEACH – The Caribbean Queen is proud to introduce its Caribbean Queen for the month of June 2013, local artist Sandra Ospina, prominently displaying her fun, recycled cigar-box bags in the store at Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Sandra Milena Ospina Pombo was born in Palmira, Colombia, and the lush province of Valle del Cauca was the focal point of Sandra's childhood and adolescent memories. Living and working in Aruba for the past ten years, enjoying this beautiful island, she learned to tap into



these early memories by looking up to her father, who was the artistic breadwinner for the family. Sandra's dad was quite famous in Colombia as a plastic artist sculpting the

steps, creating poetry that surprised many as works of art beyond her years. Sandra's compelling artistic background is coupled with her innate ability to rise

to the challenge and create special souvenirs, attractive to both visitors and locals. She is eternally on the quest for a better, more appealing product and strives to create different items that excite visitors. In recent years, she has been tinkering with innovative designs of purses made

key chains, dice, and even kitchen-cabinet door handles. Although some of Sandra's favorite pieces are just plain cigar boxes with indigenous Cuban designs, some are fancier and more ornate, as she hopes to appeal to more women with her work. Sandra also donates 10% of all



from cigar boxes, and since her dad passed away eight months ago, Sandra has been determined to carry on his legacy and devote more time to her artistic development. She also admits that working on the cigar-box bags brings her closer to him. Every bag she creates has a unique style and look that often utilizes other recycled pieces, such as wine corks,

proceeds from her work to Casa Cuna, the local orphanage and children's home. Sandra's collection for Caribbean Queen is a combination of her past collections and the new season styles, featuring different colors and ornamentation. Enjoy her art throughout the month of June at Caribbean Queen, Palm Beach Plaza Mall. □

Beauty On The Beach
Lauren Smith
From Boston is making her 3rd trip to our lovely Island. She is staying at Casa del Mar.

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Bienvenidos a Aruba! Bugaloe welcomes back loyal guest Canyon Dixon!

PALM BEACH- Bugaloe welcomes back Canyon Dixon from Dorado, Puerto Rico. Canyon fell in love with Aruba 10 years ago, and has been returning every year since! He just loves everything about Aruba, the beaches, the sunsets and the friendly and relaxed environment. Canyon stays at Tierra del Sol during his visits to Aruba, a perfect place to reside and be close to the Palm Beach area. Whenever he is on the island, he goes to Bugaloe for dinner, and usually doesn't leave before midnight! With his favorite meal being the Grouper Wrap, his choice of drinks is or a mojito or a Captain Morgan Coke. 'Most of my memories are a little foggy' says Canyon as he continues, with a big smile on his face. 'Probably because of the mixture of drinks. But last Saturday night's performance of karaoke by the Bugaloe staff, I will definitely never forget!' Canyon always has a good time at Bugaloe, because when you are looking for a good experience and smiling faces, Bugaloe is the place to be. The Bugaloe crew would like to thank Canyon for being a loyal Bugaloe guest and hope to party some more with him soon! ☐



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CASINO AND SHOPS



Els Nabs Early Lead At BMW

CIARAN FAHEY
Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — Ernie Els took the lead in the first round of the BMW International Open on Thursday after an eagle and seven birdies steered him to a 9-under 63.

The South African, who won the British Open in 2002 and 2012 and the U.S. Open in 1994 and 1997, al-



Ernie Els of South Africa tees off on the 10th hole during the BMW International Open at Golfclub Eichenried near Munich, southern Germany, on Thursday, June 20, 2013. (AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

most had a second eagle at the last that would have equaled a course record. Still, he was content with a two-putt birdie that gave him a one-stroke lead.

"It doesn't really mean much until Sunday. But getting into the race, so to speak, early on in the tournament is nice, to be right in the hunt," Els said.

Matthew Baldwin of England, Sweden's Alex Noren, Dutchman Robert-Jan Derksen and Germany's Martin Kaymer, who delighted the home crowd in the afternoon by finishing with three successive birdies, and nine in all, have a share of second place after carding 64s.

"I had a lot of chances on the back nine and I pretty much made all of them," said Kaymer, who won this tournament in 2008.

Continued on Page 18

SHUTOUT



Spain crushes Tahiti 10-0 in Confederations Cup

Spain's Javier Martinez, left, is challenged by Tahiti's Marama Vahirua during the soccer Confederations Cup group B match between Spain and Tahiti at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, June 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)
Page 18

Spain crushes Tahiti 10-0 in Confederations Cup

STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — In a one-sided match at the Confederations Cup, World Cup winner Spain crushed the Pacific islanders from Tahiti 10-0 on Thursday — a result that wasn't as bad as some had suggested beforehand.

Tahiti coach Eddy Etaeta said he feared Spain might score 15 or 20. Still, the winning margin was the largest in a Confederations Cup match. The previous record margin was six, when Brazil beat Saudi Arabia 8-2 in 1999 and when Brazil beat Australia 6-0 in 1997.

Fernando Torres, who missed a penalty late in the match, scored four goals. David Villa added three goals, David Silva two and Juan Mata one.

Tahiti was the crowd favorite at the Maracana stadium with Brazilians wildly cheering the underdogs and jeering Spain. When Spanish midfielder Mata tried to score with a bicycle kick with the score at 4-0, the effort was met with loud booing.

Torres' miss from a penalty late also drew wild cheers. The ball bounced off the crossbar and Tahiti keeper Mikael Roche raised his hands in celebration —

as if he'd stopped it. That also drew thunderous applause.

"They (Brazilians) are always on the side of the underdog, meaning Tahiti," Del Bosque said. "I believe the fans respected the show and enjoyed the match."

The game had the tone of a practice game — or a friendly. Even before it began, the outcome was never in doubt. The spirit was set by Tahiti coach Eddy Etaeta, who put a flower lei, or necklace, around the neck of Spanish coach Vicente del Bosque. Etaeta, who called playing Spain a "Christmas present," said before the match that Spain might score 15 or 20 goals.

"We lost 10-0 but we won the hearts of the Brazilian public. So obrigado, obrigados a todos," he said after the game, saying 'Thank You everyone' in Portuguese. Etaeta said it was frustrating that his team was now better known in Brazil than at home.

Del Bosque defended Tahiti's place in the tournament, despite some criticizing the inclusion of the tiny island with only 180,000 residents.

"They are the champions of Oceania," Del Bosque



Spain's David Villa, left, scores his side's 7th goal past Tahiti goalkeeper Mikael Roche during the soccer Confederations Cup group B match between Spain and Tahiti at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, June 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

said. "That's football. They did what they had to do and they deserved to be here. We are not the ones to decide."

Tahitian players also draped trinkets around the neck of the Spanish players just before the start, another gesture of friendship and respect for the Spanish side.

Tahiti attacked from the start and was just 1-0 down

after 15 minutes, hardly an illustration of the gulf between the world champions and a team made up of amateurs who hold down day jobs. But that did not last long, with Spain leading 4-0 at the break. The match was lopsided, but there have been worse. Spain added six in the second half and could easily have added plenty more. The game burst into life

with Villa's goal in the 49th, then Torres in the 57th followed by Villa again seven minutes later.

The Tahitians tired as the game wore on and only found their way into the Spanish half a handful of times. Keeper Mikael Roche let in 10, but still made several sprawling saves.

"They would have loved to have scored one single goal," Etaeta said. □

Els shoots 63, takes 1-shot lead in Germany

Continued from front

Baldwin and Noren both had eight birdies in the morning, while Derksen

had six, as well as an eagle in the afternoon.

English pair Matthew Nixon and Tom Lewis, along with Alexander Levy of France,

are tied for sixth, one stroke further back.

"Hats off, it was just everything went right, holed a lot of putts and that's that, re-

ally," Nixon said.

"I had two eagles and my dad is always telling me I'm rubbish at par-5s so hopefully he'll feel better about

that."

Els finished tied for fourth at the U.S. Open last week and had a share of sixth place at the Wentworth Club in his previous two tournaments.

"I've really been working hard at my game," the 43-year-old said. "I could feel that things were coming around a bit.

I've had a bit of an iffy year up to now, but I really feel that my swing feels good and my body feels good, so I can swing the club properly."

Els started at the 10th, and fired five birdies in the outward 31.

He holed a 40-foot birdie putt on the short second, before doing brilliantly on the par-five sixth. □



Henrik Stenson of Sweden tees off during the BMW International Open at Golfclub Eichenried near Munich, southern Germany, on Thursday, June 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

More trouble for Patriots' TE Hernandez

CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Aaron Hernandez, a tight end for the National Football League's New England Patriots who is already connected to a homicide victim in Massachusetts is being sued by a man claiming Hernandez shot him in the face after they argued at a strip club. The lawsuit filed in Florida late Wednesday by 30-year-old Alexander Bradley comes as police in New England investigate the death of 27-year-old semi-pro player Odin Lloyd. Lloyd's body was found in an industrial park near Hernandez's home in North Attleborough, Massachusetts. Lloyd's family has said he had some connection to Hernandez but would not elaborate.

In his federal lawsuit seeking at least \$100,000 in damages, Bradley claims he and Hernandez were with a group in February at Tootsie's club in Miami when the two got into an argument. Later, as they were driving to Palm Beach County, Bradley claims Hernandez shot him with a handgun, causing him to lose his right eye.

Bradley, who is from Connecticut, also suffers from jaw pain, headaches, permanent injury to his right hand and arm and will probably need further surgery, according to the lawsuit. He has already undergone facial reconstruction surgery and has plates and screws in the right side of his face.

Bradley "will require extensive medical care and treatment for the rest of his life," the four-page lawsuit says.

Bradley did not mention Hernandez in a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office report at the time. Bradley, found shot and bleeding Feb. 13 in an alley behind a John Deere store, insisted to investigators he did not know who shot him and gave only a vague description of possible assailants. □

Rangers clinch series over A's with 4-3 win

STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — When the ball caromed away from Texas Rangers center fielder Craig Gentry, he quickly recovered to get it and throw to short-stop Elvis Andrus. The game was over after a perfect relay to the plate. Oakland's Josh Donaldson was tagged out by catcher A.J. Pierzynski, preserving the Rangers' series-clinching 4-3 victory over the AL West-leading Athletics on Thursday.

Donaldson, who reached on a two-out single off closer Joe Nathan, was trying to score from first on Seth Smith's fast-sinking ball that that short-hopped the charging Gentry.

"Little did we know, fortunately, that ended up being a blessing," Nathan said.

"I was hoping that Gentry had enough foot speed to catch it, but it sunk on him, but he kept it almost in front of him, not too far," manager Ron Washington said. "If he didn't hit Elvis with the relay perfectly, I don't think we would have been able to pull that play off." Ian Kinsler put the Rangers ahead for the first time with

his two-out single in the seventh.

Texas pulled within a game of the Athletics by winning three times in the four-game set. The division's top two teams don't play again until the first week-end of August.

es. ... I just want to get the ball quick, so I can make a throw and make that guy stop."

Kinsler came to the plate in the seventh right after Leonys Martin's hustling infield single, getting to first base ahead of Sean Doo-

middle of the infield.

Donaldson and Smith singled in the ninth after Nathan struck out the first two hitters.

When Donaldson saw the ball get away from Gentry, who replaced Martin defensively in center to start



Texas Rangers' A.J. Pierzynski, left, holds the ball up for umpire Jordan Baker after a collision with Oakland Athletics' Josh Donaldson, right, in the ninth inning of a baseball game Thursday, June 20, 2013, in Arlington, Texas. Donaldson was out on the play to end the game. The Rangers won 4-3.
(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

"Any win right now is special, especially against a good team like the A's, especially to win the series," Andrus said. "They're really aggressive on the bas-

little (3-2) when the pitcher was taking the toss from first baseman Brandon Moss. That loaded the bases with two outs, and Kinsler hit a full-count pitch through the

the ninth. Donaldson never slowed down rounding third base even as coach Mike Gallego signaled him to stop after initially waving him home. □

Alvarez drives in 5, Pirates beat Reds 5-3

JOE KAY
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pedro Alvarez hasn't changed anything in June, except those RBI numbers. They're way up there, just like the Pirates. Alvarez drove in all of Pittsburgh's runs with a solo homer, bases-loaded double and a single on Thursday for a 5-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds and a split of their high-profile NL Central series.

The Pirates remain a half-game behind second-place Cincinnati after the four-game set, keeping them virtually shoulder-to-shoulder as they chase the torrid St. Louis Cardinals.

After blowing a one-run lead in the ninth and losing 2-1 in 13 innings on Wednesday night, Pittsburgh salvaged a game

behind Alvarez and a bullpen running on fumes.

"We needed a big day from a number of people today and Pedro was one of them," manager Clint

Hurdle said. "There was no bigger swing than with the bases loaded, left-on-left. Beautiful."

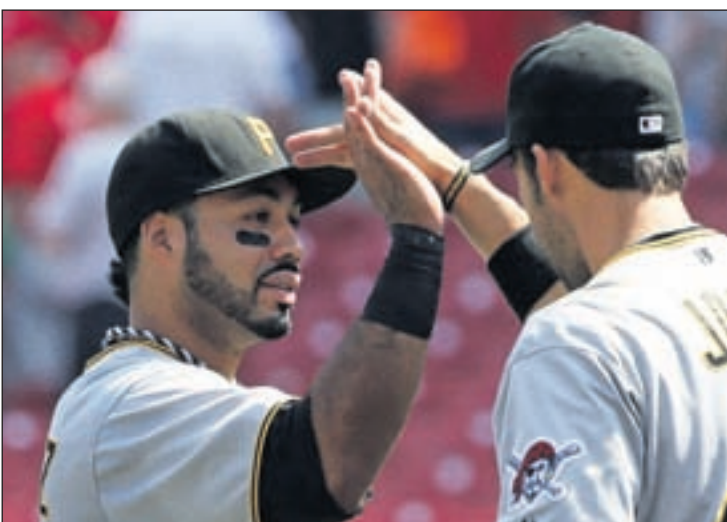
Alvarez had an RBI single and his 16th homer off

Homer Bailey, who couldn't follow his no-hitter against Pittsburgh with a win.

After Alfredo Simon (5-3) loaded the bases in the seventh, Alvarez doubled off left-hander Tony Cingrani to snap a 2-all tie. The five RBIs were a season high for a Pirate and one shy of Alvarez's career high. The third baseman has been Pittsburgh's top run producer in June, leading the team with 48 RBIs overall. It's quite a change.

Alvarez .180 in April and .225 in May before finding his form.

He has six homers in June, second-most in the NL. "I just think it's repetition and getting the opportunity to go out and try to gain as much experience as I can from every day out there," Alvarez said. □



Pittsburgh Pirates' Pedro Alvarez, left, is congratulated by Garrett Jones after they defeated the Cincinnati Reds 5-3 in a baseball game, Thursday, June 20, 2013, in Cincinnati. Alvarez had three hits, one a home run, and drove in all the Pirates runs.

(AP Photo/Al Behrman)

Stanley Cup:

Blackhawks even series 2-2; Bruins look to Game 5

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks kept taking the lead until there were no more chances for Boston to come back, beating the Bruins 6-5 in overtime on Wednesday to tie the Stanley Cup finals at 2-2.

Brent Seabrook's slap shot beat Boston goalie Tuukka Rask with 9:51 gone in over-

time, capping a performance in which Chicago finally regained its scoring touch.

"I guess it was just our turn to score again," said Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane after the back-and-forth game in which Boston come back to tie the score three times. "It was a fun game to play. ... I'm sure the fans enjoyed that, for

sure."

Game 5 of the best-of-seven series will be in Chicago on Saturday, with Game 6 back in Boston on Monday. Kane had a goal and an assist for the Blackhawks, who had only scored five goals total in the first three games of the series and hadn't put the puck past Rask in more than 129 minutes coming into Game 4. Bryan Bickell

and Michal Rozsival had two assists apiece, and Corey Crawford made 28 saves for Chicago.

They keep coming," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "One of those nights."

Patrice Bergeron scored twice, and Zdeno Chara and Jaromir Jagr each had two assists for Boston, which had won 11 of its previous

13 playoff games. Rask made 41 saves but he was screened on the game-winner, which quickly quieted the building where Boston had earned a dominating, 2-0 victory two nights earlier.

"One of things we have talked about, get pucks to the net," said Seabrook, a defenseman who also had the overtime goal in Game 7 of the Western Conference semifinals. "I just tried getting it on net, we had a great screen in front. ... It just found a way."

It was the third overtime game in the finals, but it the free-flowing spectacle bore little resemblance to the three tightly contested games that opened the series. The teams combined for five goals in the second period — as many as in Games 2 and 3 combined — as Chicago repeatedly sprinted into the lead only to have Boston come back and tie it.

The Blackhawks led 1-0, 4-2 and 5-4, but each time the Bruins evened it up, the last just 55 seconds after Chicago took the lead when Johnny Boychuk slapped it over a sliding Johnny Oduya with 7:46 left in regulation. Boychuk, who had never scored more than five goals in a season, has six in the postseason.

"It wasn't a Bruins' type of game, but at the same time you have to get yourself back into it," Bruins coach Claude Julien said.

□



The winning goal by Brent Seabrook, not shown, crosses into the net behind Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask (40), of Finland, as Chicago Blackhawks center Jonathan Toews (19) and Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara (33), of Slovakia hover in front during the first overtime period in Game 4 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals, Wednesday, June 19, 2013, in Boston. Chicago won 6-5. Chicago won 6-5.

(AP Photo/Harry How, Pool)

Bruins goalie shows vulnerability few knew existed

PETER MAY
© 2013 New York Times

BOSTON - Minutes after scoring the overtime goal that won Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Finals, Chicago defenseman Brent Seabrook uttered nine words that would be greeted with skull-imploding bewilderment in New York and Pittsburgh. "It was nice to get a few past Tuukka," Seabrook told NBC's Pierre McGuire, referencing the

stunning six goals — by six different players — that the Blackhawks scored against Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask to even the series heading into Saturday night's Game 5 in Chicago. If Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin or Rick Nash were watching, chances are their television screen now has a hole in the middle of it from a flying object. The Rangers rarely saw this Rask. The Penguins never

saw this Rask.

And, until Game 4, neither had Chicago. And his sudden vulnerability was stunningly versatile. The Blackhawks scored when they were short-handed. They scored on the power play, snapping a streak of 23 power plays without a goal. They scored on deflections. They scored on long shots. They scored on rebounds. "Every goal is stoppable," Rask said Thursday. "I don't

think there were any weak ones. They were mistakes that piled up and I wasn't able to bail our guys out. Sometimes you do, sometimes you don't."

Rask added: "I just try not to let in six goals again. You let in six goals, that's not something you look forward to repeating." Game 5 is always critical in a best-of-seven series that is tied 2-2. In the Stanley Cup Finals, the winner of Game

5 has gone on to win the series 68.2 percent of the time. The Bruins, however, are one of four teams in the last six instances of a 2-2 tie who lost Game 5 and still won the Stanley Cup. So are the Blackhawks, who were in an identical position in 2010, tied with Philadelphia after four games. Chicago won Game 5 at home and closed out the Flyers in overtime in Game 6 on the road. □

Sky to send strong team for Tour title defense

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Chris Froome will be supported by a well-balanced team in his bid to succeed the injured Bradley Wiggins as Tour de France champion. After finishing second in last year's Tour following a tense battle with Wiggins, Froome will be Team

times looking the stronger rider in the climbs but being thwarted by team orders to support Wiggins rather than try and attack him.

Despite Wiggins' withdrawal, the Sky lineup of nine riders announced on Thursday is still impressive, mixing experienced riders capable of helping Froome in high mountains and others

shape. With four stage-race wins this year Chris has not only grown as a rider but also importantly as a leader.

Froome is the Tour favorite after an impressive season that saw him win the Tour of Oman, the Criterium International, the Tour de Romandie and the Criterium du Dauphine. He will head-

once the racing begins," Froome said. "Most of us were at the Criterium du Dauphine and I was hugely impressed there with the way the team came together in control of the leader's jersey.

It gave me huge faith and I could not be happier with the selection." Even without Wiggins, Sky has been so dominant this season that the British squad can hope for

another 1-2 finish in the grueling three-week race, led by Froome and Porte. The 28-year-old Porte won Paris-Nice in February and the Australian climber's strength was obvious during the Dauphine.

"In Richie we simply have one of the strongest climbers in the world," Froome said. "He is another rider who's more than capable of winning a Grand Tour in his own right. □



Cyclist Chris Froome of Team Sky poses for photographers before a meeting with journalists in Nice, southern France, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. Chris Froome will take part to the next Tour de France cyclist 2013, starting on June 29 from Corsica island.

(AP Photo/Lionel Cironneau)

Sky's sole leader this year after the time-trial Olympic champion pulled out of the 100th edition of the race because of health issues. The Tour starts on June 29 in Corsica.

Froome said recently that he felt relieved by Wiggins' absence, although he acknowledged it would hamper the British team's chances to successfully defend the title.

Relations between the two were frosty during last year's Tour, with Froome some-

in charge of protecting him on the flat stages.

"Making the final selection of riders has been especially tough this year but we believe that we've found the right combination for the Tour de France," team manager Dave Brailsford said. "We have a group of nine riders that are all in great form and ready for the challenge ahead.

"The Tour de France has been the main goal for Chris this season and he goes into the race in great

line a Sky team featuring eight cyclists who rode together at the Dauphine in which Froome triumphed ahead of teammate Richie Porte earlier this month.

The other riders selected for the Tour are Edvald Boasson Hagen, Peter Kennaugh, Vasil Kiryienka, David Lopez, Kanstantsin Siutsou, Ian Stannard and Geraint Thomas.

"I'm delighted with the balance in this team and every one of these riders is going to play a pivotal role

Pele says supports peaceful protests

FORTALEZA, Brazil (AP) — Football great Pele says he supports the Brazilian popular protests sweeping the country, as long as they're peaceful.

Pele has been criticized online for telling Brazilians to forget about protests that have swept the coun-

try in recent days and focus on cheering on the national team.

Pele said in a television interview that the country should only "think about the national team," prompting Brazilians to flood social media sites to mock his comments.

Pele had expressed sup-

port for the nationwide protests in the same interview, but only the part in which he told Brazilians to "forget about this mess that is happening in Brazil" went viral. He later released a statement reiterating he supports the people's movement, as long as it's not violent. □

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FRI 5:00 | 8:05 | 11:10
SAT 2:00 | 5:00 | 8:05 | 11:10
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ON TWO SCREENS

The Internship

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SAT, SUN & HOL 1:50 | 6:50

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THE HANGOVER: PART III

BRADLEY COOPER | ED HELMS

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **R**

MON - THURS 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 12:00
SAT 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

AFTER EARTH

WILL SMITH | JADEN SMITH

PG-13

MON - FRI 4:40 | 7:00
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00

FAST & FURIOUS 6

VIN DIESEL | PAUL WALKER

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Rodent may hold cancer-fighting clues

CARL ZIMMER

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The laboratory of Vera Gorbunova and Andrei Seluanov, a husband-and-wife team of biologists at the University of Rochester, has the feel of a petting zoo. They maintain colonies of several species of rodents - some familiar, like mice and guinea pigs, and some much more exotic, like blind mole rats from Israel and naked mole rats from East Africa.

Amusing children with furry creatures is not their goal, however. The biology of animals is mysteriously diverse, and lurking within it may be clues to new kinds of medicine.

Even the strangest creatures may hold a valuable surprise. And in the latest issue of the journal *Nature*, Gorbunova, Seluanov and their colleagues report a particularly fascinating surprise: Naked mole rats produce a unique compound that appears to block them from getting cancer.

Rochelle Buffenstein, who studies the biology of naked mole rats at the University of Texas Health Science Center, called the discovery by Gorbunova and Seluanov "intriguing and most unexpected." She is hopeful that the naked mole rat's secrets may inspire new treatments for cancer.

Gorbunova and Seluanov are hopeful as well; they're now investigating whether the compound can protect mice from cancer. "We think this mechanism could be moved into humans," Gorbunova said.

Studying cancer in animals is nothing new, of course. Scientists regularly test out potential cancer drugs on mice. More recently, however, researchers have started to appreciate the differences among various species. Lab mice are especially prone to cancer, for example; 47 percent of them develop tumors of one sort or another. Naked mole rats, on the other hand, have a profoundly different sort of life. They can live more than 30 years, and scientists have yet to find a single mole rat

with cancer.

To understand this phenomenon, scientists have examined the naked mole rats' cells. They've infected them with viruses that reliably trigger cancer in mouse cells, finding that their efforts fail utterly in naked mole rat cells.

This resistance has inspired Gorbunova and Seluanov to figure out the naked mole rat's secret.

"There's a lot to be learned from cancerproof rodents," Gorbunova said.

In 2009, Gorbunova and Seluanov found an intriguing clue to how naked mole rats escape cancer. In humans, mice and most other mammals, cells will grow and divide until they bump into other cells. The contact causes them to stop dividing or even die



Scientists have found intriguing clues as to how naked mole rats escape cancer.

(Handout Photo)

off. This response - called contact inhibition - stops cells from multiplying out of control.

But Gorbunova, Seluanov and their colleagues discovered that naked mole rat cells are much more sensitive to other cells. They also discovered that raising naked mole rat cells can be frustrating. To raise cells, scientists put them in a liquid full of nutrients. After a few days, the scientists noticed, naked mole rat cells turn that liquid to syrup. "We said, 'We need to find out what this goo is,'" said Gorbunova.

Their postdoctoral researcher, Christopher Hine (now at Harvard), discovered that the goo was made up of chain-shaped molecules called hyaluro-

nan. Hyaluronan is a common molecule in human bodies; it's an ingredient in the stretchy gel in which our cells are embedded. It also sends signals into our cells by latching onto a receptor on cells called CD44. The signals can deliver commands to cells to change course - to start multiplying in some cases, for example.

The Rochester team found that the bodies of naked mole rats are loaded with high levels of hyaluronan. But they discovered something else: Naked mole rats make a form of hyaluronan that's five times as long as the kind made by mice or humans.

The scientists wondered if this long hyaluronan helped naked mole rats fight cancer. They added hyaluro-

nan-destroying enzymes to populations of naked mole rat cells to see what would happen. Instead of arresting their growth at a low density, the cells now grew into thick clusters, just as cancer-prone mouse cells do.

The scientists next shut down the gene in naked mole rat cells that encodes hyaluronan. They then inserted a cancer-causing virus. Instead of resisting the virus, the hyaluronan-free cells multiplied wildly. And when the researchers moved the naked mole rat cancer cells into mice, the cells grew into full-blown tumors. Suddenly, naked mole rat cells became as vulnerable to cancer as mouse cells - or human cells. □



Chew on this: Sour news on grapefruit

Richard A. Marini

© 2013 San Antonio Express-News

Sour news on grapefruit
Funny how often science discovers things it didn't know it was looking for. Twenty years ago, Canadian researcher David Bailey was preparing to study alcohol's effect on the blood pressure medicine felodipine. To properly "blind" participants, Bailey and his wife rummaged through their fridge looking for something that would mask the taste of the alcohol. They settled on grapefruit juice. Once the study began, however, Bailey was surprised to discover concentrations of felodipine in the volunteers' blood were many times higher than expected. Suspecting the grapefruit juice was somehow to blame (and in a decision either brave or foolhardy), Bailey tested his hypothesis by running an experiment with a single subject: himself. His study, published in the medical journal *The Lancet* in 1991, has since been replicated many times and today, grapefruit's ability to cause prescription drugs to build up in the body is a medical fact. It happens because substances in grapefruit juice disrupt enzymes in the body that metabolize, or break down, drugs. Without the enzyme, the drug keeps accumulating, sometimes to dangerous levels. Bailey, today a senior scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute in London, Ontario, recently published a follow-up article in the Canadian

Medical Association Journal warning that as new drugs are introduced, the number that may interact with grapefruit juice is skyrocketing. In 2008 there were 17 drugs that Bailey calls "worrisome." Today there are 44, an average of about six new drugs a year. "Taking these prescription drugs with grapefruit juice is like taking several tablets at once," says Bailey, adding that this is perhaps the most profound food-drug interaction known. (Other citrus fruits that can have the same effect include Seville oranges, pomelos and limes.) Depending on the drug, side effects can include gastrointestinal bleeding, a heart rhythm disruption that goes by the pleasant-sounding name *torsade de pointes*, abnormally low blood pressure and sudden cardiac death. And it doesn't take much. Drinking as little as 6-7 ounces of grapefruit juice can hamper drug metabolism for as long as 72 hours. At greatest risk? The elderly, who tend to take more prescription drugs and, yes, consume more grapefruit. While computer programs help alert physicians and pharmacists about drug-on-drug interactions, preventing food-drug interactions is trickier. "Adding a question about grapefruit juice to a patient's pharmaceutical profile is certainly something worthy of consideration," says Oralia Bazaldua, a pharmacist with the University of Texas Health Science Center. □

New metered pay model for New York Times mobile apps

CHRISTINE HAUGHNEY
© 2013 New York Times

The New York Times Co. said Thursday it would begin a new metered pay model for its mobile apps and charge readers for articles, as it does on its website.

On June 27, the company will start charging nonsubscribers who want to read more than three articles a day on The New York Times apps for mobile devices.

Until now, readers using the apps were able to access 10 to 15 stories a day exclusively from its Top News section without paying for content. Subscribers are able to access articles, blog posts, videos and slide shows from all sections of The Times.

After readers click through three articles, nonsubscribers will be able to browse section fronts and get article summaries.

But they will have to become subscribers to read more than three articles. Web subscriptions that include mobile apps range from \$15 to \$35 every four weeks.

To encourage more readers to pay for the app, the company said it is also introducing a seven-day free trial.

Denise F. Warren, an executive vice president of the company, said that The Times had been planning for a long time to charge for content on its apps because readers had access to so many more articles there than they did on the website.

"We always knew there was an imbalance," Warren said in an interview. "We wanted to restore that balance between the website and the apps."

Since April 2011, when the company introduced a metered pay model on its website, The Times and The International Herald Tribune have attracted 676,000 paid digital subscribers. On the website, nonsubscribers can access 10 free articles a month. □

Survey:

Car quality dinged by tech glitches

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Car buyers increasingly want high-tech features like voice recognition and navigation. But they're not very forgiving of the car company when those systems fail.

The top complaints in J.D. Power's closely-watched survey of new vehicle owners, released Wednesday, involved technologies that

through state registration data.

Porsche, GMC, Lexus, Infiniti and Chevrolet topped the rankings, with owners reporting fewer than 100 problems per 100 vehicles. The worst-performing brands were Scion, Fiat, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Mini. Their owners reported 135 problems or more.

The industry average was 113 problems per vehicle. Quality has gotten so

trouble connecting to their phones.

J.D. Power, which has been conducting the survey since 1987, said the top complaints used to concern mechanical defects, such as engine noise, that could be readily fixed at a dealership. Now, owners complain about design or technology flaws that aren't easy for a dealer to remedy. For example, wind noise — the third most

to a different standard than smartphone makers.

"With your phone, that's a \$200 piece of electronics, so you don't expect it to have the same kind of reliability. But the car is the second most expensive piece of equipment that most people ever purchase, after their house," he said.

Car companies have little choice but to keep giving consumers the high-tech features they expect, said Consumer Reports Mutchler. He thinks the issues will get sorted out in the end, possibly with the intervention of tech companies like Apple Inc.

"It's not that the touch screen is bad or the technology is bad. Some have just had really crummy implementation" he said.

Some manufacturers boosted their scores by simplifying infotainment systems for drivers. Chrysler's UConnect system is quick and intuitive, and its features are duplicated on hard knobs and buttons, so drivers don't rely entirely on a smudgy touch screen, Bragman said. Audi lets drivers control functions using a knob near the cup holders. Audi, Chrysler and Dodge all moved up in this year's survey compared with last year.

While touch screen systems that control the radio, climate controls and other features are cheaper than those with knobs and buttons, Bragman expects manufacturers to back off them a little and replace the hardware. That way, if the screens go out, drivers can still have access to their controls.

Ford has said it plans to reintroduce dials and knobs after getting dinged for the quality of its MyFordTouch dashboard touchscreen. Its Sync voice recognition system has also drawn complaints. Ford had more top-performing models than any other company in J.D. Power's 2010 survey, but dropped to 27th in the rankings in 2012 and 2013. □



The 2013 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 4WD truck on display at the 2013 Pittsburgh Auto Show in Pittsburgh. Porsche and GMC have the highest-quality vehicles in a new survey of U.S. car owners. But the survey suggests overall quality is falling because of glitches with new technology, like navigation and voice recognition systems.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

drivers are clamoring for. Voice recognition systems either didn't recognize commands or didn't work at all. Bluetooth systems had trouble connecting with drivers' phones.

The result: Just when automakers had reached their highest-ever levels of quality — as they did in J.D. Power's 2012 survey — technology glitches are dragging their scores down.

"I've had companies tell me they would rather develop a new car from the ground up than a new entertainment system," said Tom Mutchler, program manager of vehicle interface at Consumer Reports. This year's survey questioned 83,442 owners and lessees of 2013 model year vehicles in their first 90 days of ownership. They were contacted at random

good, industry-wide, that the difference between the highest-ranking and lowest-ranking brands in J.D. Power's survey amounts to just two problems per vehicle.

Brands that bore the brunt of owner dissatisfaction often had the newest gadgetry. Cadillac's new ATS sedan is equipped with the CUE touch screen infotainment system, which has been panned by critics who say it doesn't always respond to the touch. Cadillac fell 10 places in the rankings. Nissan, which dropped 17 spots, was hurt by problems with features in its new Altima. Car owners have complained in online forums that the Altima's voice recognition system doesn't always understand them, and the car's Bluetooth system has

common complaint this year — is related to the vehicle's design, not its mechanical parts.

"Automakers are investing billions of dollars into designing and building vehicles and adding technologies that consumers desire and demand. But the risk is that the vehicle design, or the technology within the vehicle, in some cases may not meet customer needs," said David Sargent, vice president of J.D. Power's global automotive business. Sargent said automakers could mitigate the problems by teaching owners more about their high-tech features or by providing more frequent software updates.

Aaron Bragman, the Detroit bureau chief for the car-buying site Cars.com, said automakers are held

Stocks extend deep slide as China adds to worries

Continued from front

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 40.74 points, or 2.5 percent, to 1,588.19. It also reached a record high last month, peaking at 1,669. Small-company stocks fell more than the rest of the market, a sign that investors are aggressively reducing risk.

In U.S. government debt, the yield on the benchmark 10-year note rose to its highest level since August 2011. A Fed policy statement and comments from Chairman Ben Bernanke started the selling in stocks and bonds Wednesday. Bernanke said the Fed expects to scale back its massive bond-buying program later this year and end it entirely by mid-2014 if the economy continues to improve.

The bank has been buying \$85 billion a month in Treasury and mortgage bonds, a program that has kept borrowing costs near historic lows for consumers and business. It has also helped boost the stock market.

Alec Young, a global equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ, said investors weren't expecting Bernanke to say the program could end so

quickly, and are adjusting their portfolios in anticipation of higher U.S. interest rates.

"What we're seeing is a pretty significant sea-change in investor strategy," Young said.

As financial markets dropped, investors likely put the proceeds of their sales in cash as they waited for the dust to settle, said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial.

Investors "are raising cash right now, for fear the deterioration will continue," said Krosby.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.41 percent, from 2.35 percent Wednesday. It's up sharply since May 3, when it hit a year low of 1.63 percent.

Government bonds are used as benchmarks for mortgage rates. The sharp increase in yields prompted investors to sell the stocks of homebuilders, whose business could be hurt if the pace of home buying slows down. Even an encouraging report on home sales Thursday failed to arrest the slide.

PulteGroup plunged \$1.89, or 9.1 percent, to \$18.87. D.R. Horton fell \$2.13, also



Specialist Christopher Culhane squeezes his forehead as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, June 20, 2013. There was no let-up in the flight from stocks and bonds Thursday, and the Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 300 points.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

9.1 percent, to \$21.31.

Markets were also unnerved after manufacturing in China slowed at a faster pace this month as demand weakened. That added to concerns about

growth in the world's second-largest economy. A monthly purchasing managers index from HSBC fell to a nine-month low of 48.3 in June. Numbers below 50 indicate a contraction.

Earlier in other global markets, Japan's Nikkei index lost 1.7 percent. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares fell 3 percent while Germany's DAX dropped 3.3 percent.

In currency trading, the dollar rose against the euro and the Japanese yen.

In commodities trading, gold plunged to its lowest point since September 2010, falling \$87.80, or 6.4 percent, to \$1,286.20 an ounce.

Traders sold the precious metal as its appeal as insurance against inflation and a weak dollar faded. Both became less of an issue after the Fed said it was contemplating an end to its bond-buying program.

The rising dollar pushed oil prices lower. A stronger dollar makes oil more expensive for holders of other currencies. The price of crude oil fell \$2.84, or 2.9 percent, to finish at \$95.40 a barrel in New York, its biggest drop since November. Some investors said the sell-off in stocks may be overdone. The Fed is considering easing back on its stimulus because the economy is improving. □

Oracle's fiscal 4Q sales disappoint Wall St. again

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Oracle is still having trouble closing enough business software deals to keep Wall Street happy.

The quarterly results announced Thursday could escalate investors' fears about Oracle's ability to adapt to the changing demands of its customers. Businesses and government agencies are increasingly buying software through monthly or annual subscriptions that enable employees to access applications on any machine with an Internet connection. This "cloud computing" approach is a shift from Oracle's traditional approach of licensing software that is installed on individual computers kept on the premises

of its customers.

Oracle has been rolling out more cloud computing options through acquisitions and in-house development, but its recent performance is raising questions about its ability to compete in this increasingly important segment of technology.

"It's a very difficult transition," Forrester Research analyst Andrew Bartels said. "It's something they are clearly nervous about." Investors are jittery, too. Oracle's stock plunged \$2.81, or 8.5 percent, to \$30.40 after the numbers came out. A similar sell-off occurred three months ago when Oracle's previous quarterly report proved to be a let-down.

The latest report also contained troubling signs as

several key gauges fell below the analyst projections that steer Wall Street's expectations.

In an apparent attempt to offset the slowdown in its software sales, Oracle is doubling its quarterly dividend. A payment of 12 cents per share will be made on Aug. 2 to shareholders of record as of July 12. Oracle will also try to boost its stock by spending an additional \$12 billion buying back its own shares. The Redwood Shores, Calif., company earned \$3.8 billion, or 80 cents per share, in its fiscal fourth quarter. That represents a 10 percent increase from income of \$3.5 billion, or 69 cents per share, at the same time last year.

If not for certain expenses unrelated to its ongoing

business, Oracle said it would have earned 87 cents per share. That matched the average estimate among analysts surveyed by FactSet.

But revenue remained unchanged from the same time last year to \$10.9 billion — about \$170 million below analyst forecasts.

In a particularly telling sign, Oracle's sales of new software licenses and cloud computing subscriptions increased just 1 percent from last year. The mid-range of an estimate provided by Oracle's management in March called for a 6 percent increase. New software licenses and subscriptions are considered to be a key measure of a software maker's health because they set up a steady flow of future revenue. □

COMMODITIES

Gold plunges as traders see exit by Fed

NEW YORK (AP) — Gold plunged below \$1,300 an ounce for the first time since September 2010 after the Federal Reserve said it might start to slow down its bond-buying program later this year.

Gold for August delivery dropped \$87.80, or 6.4 percent, to \$1,286.20 an ounce Thursday. July silver plummeted \$1.80, or 8.3 percent, to \$19.823 an ounce.

The prospect of less economic stimulus from the Fed greatly diminished the appeal of gold and silver as insurance against inflation and a weak dollar. Traders worried that both could have been a byproduct of the Fed's stimulus program. The dollar has risen sharply against other currencies since the Fed made its announcement Wednesday. In other metals trading, copper for July delivery fell 7.9 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$3.062 a pound. July platinum fell \$60.10, or 4.2 percent, to \$1,363.80 an ounce. Palladium for September delivery fell \$31.30, or 4.5 percent, to \$665.10 an ounce.

Energy prices also fell sharply. Crude oil dropped by \$2.84, or 2.9 percent, to finish at \$95.40 a barrel in New York, its biggest drop since November. In addition to the Fed news, energy traders were also reacting to a slowdown in manufacturing in China. Wholesale gasoline fell 10.5 cents, or 3.6 percent, to finish at \$2.79 a gallon. Heating oil fell 10 cents, or 3.4 percent, to end at \$2.87 per gallon.

Natural gas retreated by 9 cents, or 2.2 percent, to finish at \$3.88 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Crop prices ended lower. The actively traded December contract for corn fell 10 cents to \$5.605 a bushel. November soybeans fell 25.75 cents to \$12.85 a bushel and July wheat fell 6.5 cents to \$7.005 a bushel. □

Facebook introduces mobile video on Instagram

BARBARA ORTUTAY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is adding video to its popular photo-sharing app Instagram, following in the heels of Twitter's growing video-sharing app, Vine. Instagram co-founder Kevin Systrom said Thursday that users will be able to record and share 15-second clips by tapping a video icon in the app. They can also apply filters to videos to add contrast, make them black and white or different hues. "This is the same Instagram we all know and love but it moves," he said at an event held at Facebook's Menlo Park, California, headquarters.

Vine, which launched in January, has 13 million users and lets people create and share 6-second video clips. Instagram has 100 million users, up from 20 million when Facebook bought the company more than a year ago. If users like it, Facebook's move could propel mobile video sharing into the mainstream. Systrom said

To use the video feature, Instagram users who've downloaded the latest version can tap on the same camera icon they use to snap photos. A new video camera icon will appear on the right side. Tap it and a screen with a red video button will let you record clips of sunsets, kids running in parks or co-workers staring at their computer screens.

The app will record as long as your finger is on the red

button or for 15 seconds, whichever comes first. Not unlike Vine, taking your finger off the button will stop the recording, allowing you to shoot the scene from a different angle or record something else altogether. Once you have 15 sec-

Right now, only owners of the iPhone 4S or iPhone 5 can shoot video using this feature. Given Vine's popularity, "it is perhaps more surprising that Facebook has not introduced video for Instagram sooner. There is no doubt Twitter will move

ing features from smaller rivals and offering them to a much larger set of users "has worked well for Facebook" so far. "It also keeps Facebook's services fresh, and is one of the reasons more than a billion people still use the site every month," he wrote in an email. When Facebook Inc. agreed to buy Instagram in April 2012, it offered \$1 billion in cash and stock. But the value of the deal fell to \$715 million by the time the deal closed last August. Instagram was the first — and only — company Facebook has bought and kept running as a separate application. Until its Instagram purchase, Facebook was known for smaller "acqui-hires," a type of popular Silicon Valley deal in which a company purchases a startup as a way to hire its talented workers and then shuts the acquired company down. Facebook still hasn't said how it will be able to make money from Instagram, as it has not introduced ads on the service. But online video ads are growing, and it's likely only a matter of time before they arrive on Facebook — and at some point, Instagram. Research firm eMarketer estimates that the U.S. digital video advertising market will grow 41 percent this year, to \$4.1 billion from 2.9 billion in 2012. The mobile video ad market is much smaller, though eMarketer expects it to more than double this year to \$518 million. □



Instagram's new video feature is demonstrated at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., Thursday, June 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

onds of footage, you can play it from the beginning and post it on Instagram to share with others.

A feature called "cinema" adds stabilization to the videos so they don't look like shaky amateur shots. Systrom called it "completely mind-blowing."

quickly to up the ante on Vine and this could undercut Facebook's efforts with video on Instagram," said Eden Zoller, principal consumer analyst at Ovum, a technology research firm, in an email.

Forrester Research analyst Nate Elliott thinks tak-

Kodak secures up to \$895M in financing

ROCHESTER, New York (AP)

— Kodak on Thursday said it has secured as much as \$895 million to fund its operations after it emerges from bankruptcy protection.

J.P. Morgan, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Barclays will supply senior secured term loans of up to \$695 million.

The banks also will arrange a senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility of up to \$200 million. They've agreed to provide

\$130 million of that facility. Kodak said the financing will allow it repay loans that funded operations while under bankruptcy protection, finance its exit from bankruptcy and fund its post-bankruptcy working capital, as well as provide cash.

The agreements are subject to court approval.

Kodak also said Thursday that a court approved its previously announced settlement with its U.K. pension plan, which is its single

largest creditor under its bankruptcy protection planning.

The agreement, first announced in April, will spin off Kodak's personalized imaging and document imaging businesses to the pension plan. The company said that the court approving the agreement said that it is critical step forward in Kodak's effort to complete its plan of reorganization. The arrangement will give the pension fund two profitable busi-

nesses that will provide ongoing income.

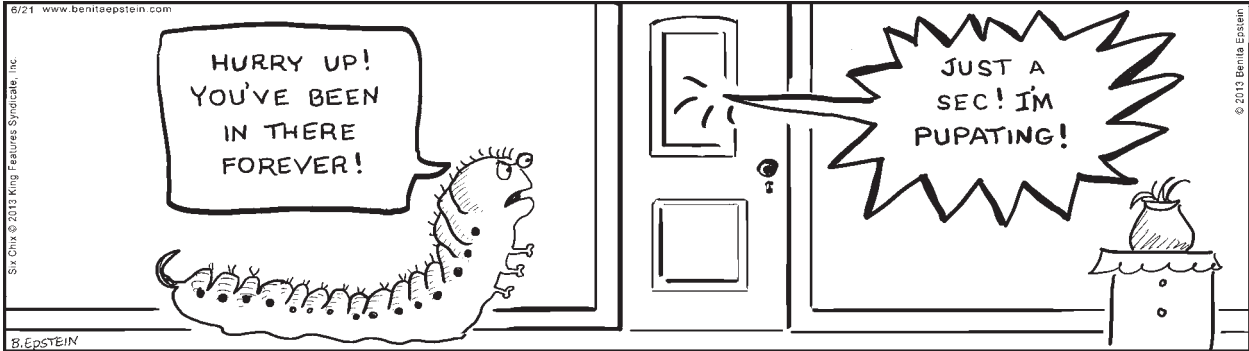
Based in Rochester, New York, Eastman Kodak Co. was founded in 1880 and filed for bankruptcy protection in 2012 after years of cost-cutting efforts failed to save the company.

It has shed most of the businesses that turned it into an American icon and has said it plans to exit bankruptcy protection by the end of September with a focus on commercial imaging and printing. □

Mutts



6 Chix



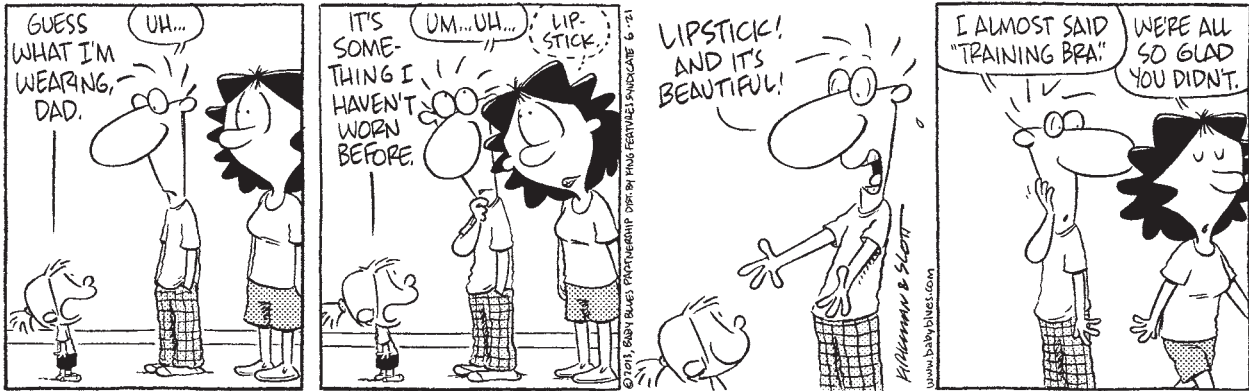
Blondie



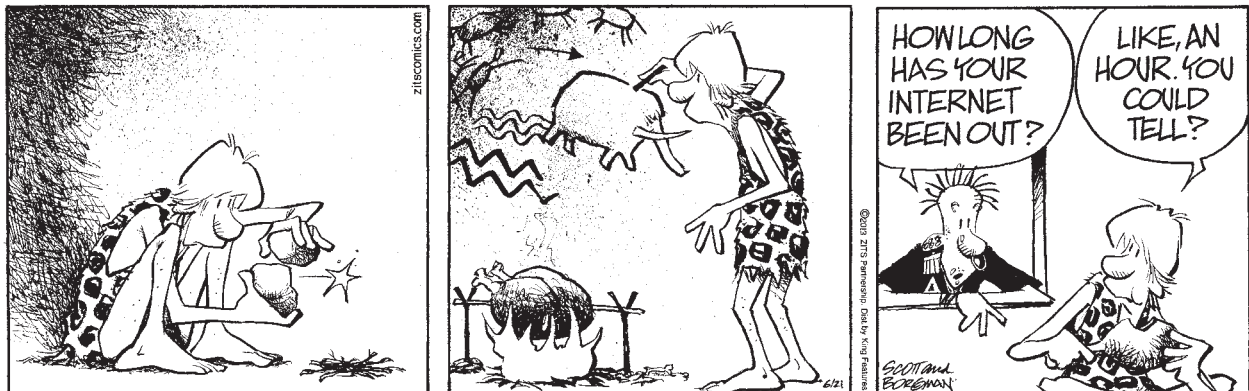
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				1		8	
6		7	2		3		
	5			3		4	
						9	
1		4		5		6	7
	8						
	7			6		2	
		9			7	5	1
	3			4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/21

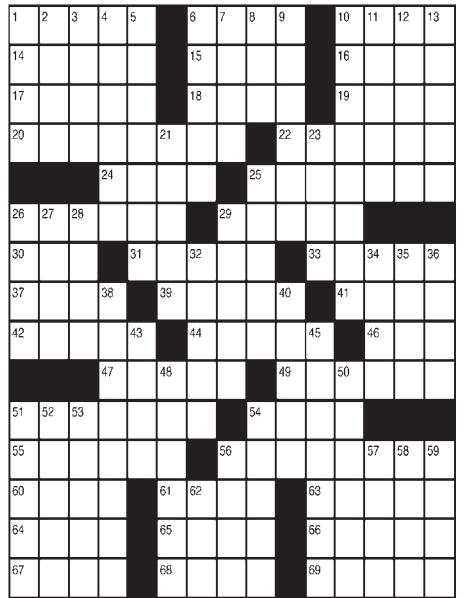
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	4	8	1	3	7	5	2	6
5	3	2	9	4	6	7	8	1
1	7	6	2	8	5	9	4	3
7	9	5	3	2	4	6	1	8
3	8	4	6	9	1	2	5	7
2	6	1	5	7	8	3	9	4
8	5	7	4	6	9	1	3	2
6	1	3	8	5	2	4	7	9
4	2	9	7	1	3	8	6	5

ACROSS

- Peace Prize
- Old Testament prophet
- Reach across
- Give one's two cents' worth
- "The Hawkeye State"
- Casino game
- cotta
- Mothers of fawns
- Annoys
- Put in jeopardy
- Eroded to a featureless plain
- Cover with a thin gold layer
- Interferes
- Calm
- Windowsill, for example
- TV's "Got a Secret"
- African nation
- Bread ingredient
- Dishonest one
- Obeys
- Drama
- More ancient
- Nuisances
- Cheap metal
- Bishop's hat
- Peter or Annette
- Glanced over hastily
- Wild hog
- Procession through the streets
- Satisfactory
- Wrought ; fence material
- Space agcy.
- Temple scroll
- Take a nap
- Thick slice
- Cream of the crop
- Looks at
- High-pitched barks
- Stupid



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/21/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- Memo
- Unlock
- Eagle or egret
- Infuriate
- Tilting
- Helped
- Boggy area
- Be in the red
- Talked back
- Superficial
- Risk
- Sprained joint, often
- Snouts
- Sparkle
- Nervous
- Fixes
- Grain storage tower
- Wickedness
- Peruse
- One who likes solitude
- Two-footed animal
- Singing voice
- Spinnaker or jib
- Actress Daly
- Leftover pieces
- Seat at a bar
- Orange peel
- Began
- Very small
- Baltimore baseball player
- Steeple
- Singer Mariah
- Ascended
- Tells secrets
- Letters of urgency
- Smile broadly
- Head toppers
- "My Country, 'Tis of "
- Ms. MacGraw

Film Review: 'Three Worlds': Accidents and accountability

STEPHEN HOLDEN

© 2013 New York Times

One miscalculation leads to another in "Three Worlds," Catherine Corsini's severe, anxiety-producing French drama about the chain of consequences after a hit-and-run accident. The 16th feature by Corsini, the film is a rigorous moral inquiry that puts its characters - but especially its ambitious young protagonist, Al (Raphaël Personnaz) - through the wringer.

In its unsparing exploration of guilt and atonement, "Three Worlds" is a distant descendant of "A Place in the Sun," which told a similar story about a social climber whose life unravels at his moment of triumph. "Three Worlds" is more complex but less affecting because the story proceeds with mathematical calculation, and humor and romance are in short supply. Although Personnaz is a fine actor, he lacks the tragic vulnerability of Montgomery Cliff in that George Stevens classic adapted from Theodore Dreiser.

"Three Worlds" is less about upward mobility than about accountability. It observes the lengths its characters go to do the right thing, and it registers the unexpected blowback when their good intentions are misconstrued or perceived as inadequate. It begins on the night of Al's bachelor party. In 10 days he is to marry the daughter of his boss, who owns a car dealership in which he has been made a partner. During a drunken joy ride with two roughneck childhood friends in a company car, he strikes a pedestrian. Af-

ter a moment's hesitation, they decide not to stop or to report the accident. As they flee, Juliette (Clotilde Hesme), who observed the accident from her balcony, goes downstairs to help the victim, a Moldovan member of a construction crew who is working in France illegally. She accompanies him to the hospital, where he lies near death with a broken spine. Should he recover, she learns, he will be a quadriplegic. Juliette meets and befriends the victim's distraught young wife, Vera (Arta Dobroshi). The crime might never have been solved. Yet Al, hoping to allay his worst fears, surreptitiously visits the hospital and observes the patient in intensive care. Racked with guilt, he slips away but is recognized as the hit-and-run driver by Juliette, whom he passes in a hallway. Following Al, she confronts him and appoints herself Al and Vera's go-between for financial restitution.

Vera, in dire financial straits, faces horrific hospital bills. The movie's view of the treatment of immigrants who are in France illegally reminds you that the United States is not the only inhospitable destination for the poor from outside its borders.

There are further complications. Although Juliette is pregnant by her sometime lover, an older college philosophy lecturer, she has an impulsive fling with Al. Money rules. When Al appeals to his future father-in-law for a handout, he is contemptuously rebuffed, and the wedding is jeopardized. □

Classifieds

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\$1000 a week
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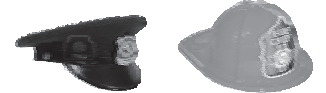
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GE makes the machine, and then listens to it

QUENTIN HARDY

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SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

Thomas Edison invented tomorrow here.

And here, Eric Anderson wants to invent the tomorrow after that - a future of endless digital information and the means to make sense of it.

In other words, a future of Big Data.

More than a century after Edison moved his Edison Machine Works to Schenectady, laying the groundwork for what would become the General Electric Co., Anderson is deploying myriad sensors to collect information about what happens inside a massive steam-driven GE generator: heat, vibrations, pressure and so on. Working at peak, the contraption can light 750,000 homes.

"We're designing these for the next 30 years," Anderson, a senior engineer at GE, said of the company's steam-driven generators. "We'll want to know everything that's going on, so we can start to make predictions about what else will happen."

The sensors inside the turbine will feed data into an even larger computer system, channeling information about things like fuel costs, weather, demand

for power in this town or that, and alternative supplies of electricity. All of that data will be churned by computer algorithms to find the optimal performance for the conditions of the moment. Should the

Anderson said. "It is still thermal energy, to mechanical energy, to electrical energy. But now it's about instrumentation, data and prediction, too. That's all different."

In much the way clicks on

Internet has raised new issues around freedom and privacy, the wealth of new information seems likely to afford unprecedented new control over the behavior of things and people. Across the global

then putting computing people on top of it all," said Jon M. Kleinberg, a professor of computer science at Cornell University. "It will change the way we think about ourselves, other people and society." Data seemingly collected for one purpose can be easily used for another, Kleinberg worries. "You study a power grid to learn about turbines, but you also learn things like people's bedtimes, and how they commute," he said. "The part that is less clear is always the harms that happen."

The trend may change venerable companies like GE in striking ways. A thousand feet from the cavernous Building 273, where Anderson builds turbines with 1,100 hourly workers, many of 20,000 sensor-rich wind turbines built by GE are managed by a handful of people, replacing scores of local employees.

Service contracts like these have been important to GE for decades, but the company thinks that automated, data-infused management will be far more profitable. Problems can be caught earlier, and there will be much more knowledge about how things behave in the real world, interacting with other people and things. □



Eric Anderson, a General Electric senior engineer, in the company's steam turbine factory in Schenectady, N.Y., June 10, 2013. General Electric is deploying sensors with the locomotives, wind turbines and other products it makes, to improve how they work in the field.

(Nathaniel Brooks/The New York Times)

turbine run harder, given forecasts of a heat wave? Can wind turbines pick up the load for a day or two? What are the maintenance costs? How well trained is the new worker on the crew?

"The process of making power doesn't change,"

an Internet browser tell Google what search results and ads to show next, voluminous data enables faster insights, and faster feedback loops, in fields that include manufacturing, national security, health care and agriculture.

And much the way the

economy, computer scientists, hospital technicians, consumer marketers, bankers, soldiers, students and more see new possibilities.

"One thing we can say for sure is that many domains will gain a lot by recording and collecting everything,

New England water tech network plan grows

Erin Ailworth/GLOBE STAFF

© 2013 The New York Times

With dozens of water technology companies already operating in Massachusetts, political and industry leaders this week detailed a plan for building the low-profile sector into a global leader producing innovative products and services needed to satisfy the growing demand for water worldwide.

The proposal calls for the creation of a New England Water Innovation Network to connect firms with laboratories and operating facilities, such as the state's Deer Island sewage treat-

ment plant, to more quickly prove and commercialize new technologies.

For instance, the plant might be a good place to test technology that detects toxins or other contaminants in water.

"If we could have access to real-world scale, actual test beds, we could do a lot better job preparing new technologies for market cheaper and faster,"

Per Suneby, president of waste-to-energy firm Bio-Conversion Solutions LLC and one of the executives behind the proposal, said in an interview Tuesday.

The idea for the network

was developed by several executives and presented at the second Symposium on Water Innovation in Massachusetts at Northeastern University.

While a still relatively small part of the state's innovation economy, the water technology sector already generates roughly \$4 billion in revenue.

Water technologies monitor, treat, and transport drinking water, storm water, wastewater, industrial water, and coastal waters. The global water industry today is estimated to generate between \$360 billion and \$600 billion in annual

revenues, according to separate analyses by the S-Network Global Water Indexes, which tracks the performance of companies working in the industry, and Lux Research, a Boston market intelligence firm.

It has the potential to grow bigger as water becomes an ever more precious commodity around the world as populations increase, putting more stress on clean, fresh water supplies. Water is used in many ways, from growing food to extracting oil and natural gas, and ensuring a sufficient supply is one of the central challenges facing

the global community today, according to the United Nations and other organizations.

With nearly 300 Massachusetts companies, organizations, and institutions involved in water technology, according to the state, firms here could tap a large chunk of that global water market.

But first those companies and institutions must pull together as an industry, working to expand access to money, technical support, and other resources to commercialize products. That's where the innovation network comes in. □

STAR GAZING

**Downey Jr. says
in for 2 more
'Avengers' films**

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Downey Jr. has signed up for two more "Avengers" films.

Marvel announced Thursday that the actor will reprise his role as Iron Man/Tony Stark for "The Avengers 2" and "The Avengers 3." Downey Jr. has played the character in a trilogy of "Iron Man" films, as well as the first superhero ensemble "Avengers" film, which made \$2.7 billion worldwide.

Joss Whedon is to return as director of the next "Avengers" film. He is writing the screenplay now. Production is to begin in March, with a theatrical release in May 2015.

The 48-year-old actor had previously suggested "Iron Man 3" might be his last spin in a stand-alone "Iron Man" film. Marvel's announcement made no mention of an "Iron Man 4" release.

**Brand scraps
Mideast shows
over security**

LONDON (AP) — British comedian Russell Brand says he has cancelled Middle Eastern dates on his forthcoming tour after promoters said they couldn't guarantee his safety.

Brand had planned to take his "Messiah Complex" tour to Abu Dhabi and Lebanon.

Brand has said the tour focuses on icons including Che Guevara, Gandhi, Malcolm X and Jesus, and examines "the importance of heroes in this age of atheistic disposability."

But Brand told BBC radio Thursday that the Mideast venues "contacted us to say we can no longer guarantee your safety."

Brand said he thought organizers were wary of the sensitive topic and the poster, which "does depict me looking a little bit Christ-like" and wearing corporate and religious insignia.

The tour starts June 12 in Chicago and ends in Reykjavik, Iceland, on Dec. 9. □

Director named for 'Fifty Shades of Grey' movie

LONDON (AP) — British visual artist and filmmaker Sam Taylor-Johnson has been signed to direct the movie version of erotic best-seller "Fifty Shades of Grey," producers have announced.

Taylor-Johnson, whose only previous feature was the 2009 John Lennon biopic "Nowhere Boy," promised she would "honor the power" of the book, which has sold millions of copies and spawned countless imitators. The announcement was made Wednesday by Universal Pictures and Focus Features. Producer Michael De Luca said Taylor-Johnson's "unique ability to gracefully showcase complex relationships dealing with love, emotion and sexual chemistry make her the ideal director" for the story of the S&M-tinged romance between a young student and an enigmatic billionaire.

"Fifty Shades" author E.L. James tweeted that she was "delighted and thrilled" by the choice.

The 46-year-old director,

previously known as Sam Taylor-Wood, is one of Britain's best-known visual art-

ists. Her works include a video portrait of David Beckham sleeping that hangs in

London's National Portrait Gallery. She also made "Crying Men," a compilation of Hollywood actors in tears. In 2012 she married "Kick-Ass" star Aaron Johnson, whom she met when he played the young Lennon



British director Sam Taylor-Wood poses for a portrait during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France. Producers say British visual artist and filmmaker Sam Taylor-Johnson has been signed to direct the movie version of erotic best-seller "50 Shades of Grey", it was announced Wednesday June 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Carlo Allegri)

ists. Her works include a video portrait of David Beckham sleeping that hangs in

London's National Portrait Gallery. She also made "Crying Men," a compilation of Hollywood actors in tears. In 2012 she married "Kick-

Ass" star Aaron Johnson, whom she met when he played the young Lennon

Mad Men:**Season ending with Don Draper at new low**

**FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Breaking up is hard to do. That is, unless you're "Mad Men," which this season has been free-and-easy in its fragmentation.

By now Peggy Olson and her radical beau are splitsville. So are Pete Campbell and wife Trudy, who caught him philandering one too many times.

Twice-wed Roger Sterling, currently solo, saw his knotty relationship with his mom torn asunder with her death this season, and he's alienated from his daughter and grandson.

And don't forget the latest romantic entanglement of Don Draper, whose marriage to winsome Megan seemed on suicide watch as, every chance he got, he scorched the sheets with downstairs neighbor Sylvia (wife of Don's presumed friend Dr. Arnold

Rosen).

The psyches on "Mad Men" in this, its sixth and penultimate season, seem to be unraveling as the season

about advertising, seems this season to have taken a step further back from the nuts-and-bolts of Madison Avenue. At the office, the

versus margarine seemed more about one-upmanship than selling a product. This season, as usual, "Mad Men" stuck to its elliptical ways, rarely saying too much or gobsmacking the viewer with an OMG moment.

All the more shocking, then, when in a recent episode — by the worst mischance — Don's teenage daughter, Sally, caught Don in the sack with Sylvia.

For a girl already alienated by her parents' divorce, by her own roiling adolescence and perhaps — who knows? — by the youth rebellion the '60s are fomenting, this sight is clearly traumatic (and perhaps all the more so, since Sally was nursing a crush on the Rosens' teenage son).

It's a lot to bear for this member of the youth generation already conditioned not to trust anybody over 30. □



Linda Cardellini as Sylvia Rosen, left, and Jon Hamm as Don Draper in a scene from "Mad Men." The season finale airs Sunday, June 23, on AMC.

(AP Photo/AMC, Jordin Althaus)

finale approaches (Sunday at 10 p.m. EDT on AMC). The male psyches, anyway. "Mad Men," which arguably has never really been

internecine bickering, politics and posturing seem to leave little time for creating ads. Even conference-room sparring about butter

Joe Gannascoli: Gandolfini died 'way too young'

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Gandolfini's lumbering, brutish mob boss with the tortured psyche will endure as one of TV's indelible characters. But his portrayal of criminal Tony Soprano in HBO's landmark drama series "The Sopranos" was just one facet of an actor who created a rich legacy of film and stage work in a life

rest and was pronounced dead at 11 p.m. Wednesday after resuscitation efforts in the ambulance and hospital failed. Modini told The Associated Press that an autopsy would be performed starting 24 hours after the death, as required by law.

Michael Kobold, a family friend, told reporters in Rome that a family member discovered Gandolfini in his hotel room, but

of us in his pretend one hold on to the memories of our intense and beautiful time together. The love between Tony and Carmela was one of the greatest I've ever known."

Joe Gannascoli, who played Vito Spatafore on the drama series, said he was shocked and heartbroken. "Fifty-one and leaves a kid — he was newly married. His son is fatherless now. ... It's way too



A reserved sign and flowers are seen on a table at Holsten's ice cream parlor Thursday, June 20, 2013, in Bloomfield, N.J., with a newspaper announcing the death of actor James Gandolfini. Gandolfini was mourned in the northern New Jersey towns where his TV character Tony Soprano lived, loved and whacked people. The star died Wednesday night in Italy of an apparent heart attack.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

cut short.

Gandolfini, 51, who died Wednesday while vacationing in Rome, refused to be bound by his star-making role in the HBO series that brought him three Emmy Awards during its six-season run and helped change the landscape of television drama.

"He was a genius," said "Sopranos" creator David Chase. "Anyone who saw him even in the smallest of his performances knows that. He is one of the greatest actors of this or any time. A great deal of that genius resided in those sad eyes."

Dr. Claudio Modini, head of the emergency room at the Policlinic Umberto I hospital in Rome, said Gandolfini suffered a cardiac ar-

rest and was pronounced dead at 11 p.m. Wednesday after resuscitation efforts in the ambulance and hospital failed. Modini told The Associated Press that an autopsy would be performed starting 24 hours after the death, as required by law.

Michael Kobold, a family friend, told reporters in Rome that a family member discovered Gandolfini in his hotel room, but he declined to say whom. NBC quoted the manager of Rome's Boscolo Exedra hotel as saying it was Gandolfini's 13-year-old son, Michael.

Gandolfini had been expected to receive an award at the Taormina Film Festival in Sicily this weekend, and organizers said they were scrambling to instead put together a tribute "remembering his career and talent."

Edie Falco, who played Tony Soprano's wife Carmela on "The Sopranos," remembered him as a "man of tremendous depth and sensitivity." "I am shocked and devastated by Jim's passing," she said in a statement, adding that her heart went out to his family "as those

young," Gannascoli said. Gandolfini and his wife, Deborah, who were married in 2008, have a daughter, Liliana, born last year, HBO said. Michael is the son of the actor and his former wife, Marcy.

Gandolfini's performance in "The Sopranos" was his ticket to fame, but he evaded being stereotyped as a mobster after the drama's breathtaking black-out ending in 2007. In a December 2012 interview with The Associated Press, he was upbeat about the work he was getting post-Tony Soprano.

"I'm much more comfortable doing smaller things," Gandolfini said then. "I like them. I like the way they're shot; they're shot quickly."

□

New techno sound grows from the streets of Egypt

NARIMAN EL-MOFTY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — "We tell the stories of our people, words that come up from our alleys, listen to me to understand" — from the Mahraganat song, "El-Rab El-Masri" (Egyptian Rap) by Sadat, Fifty and Haha.

A new musical sound emerged from the underground in Egypt since the country's 2011 revolution, a rapid-fire electronic beat, mixed with hypnotic rhythms drawn from religious festivals and fired up with auto-tuned vocals. Besides getting club crowds dancing all night long, it has given a rebellious voice to long marginalized youth, telling stories of everyday life in beaten-down neighborhoods of Cairo.

Singers of "Mahraganat" music, from an Arabic word for "festivals," push the limits with their lyrics, riffing on the world of an impoverished young man: sex, girls, drugs, empty pockets, and few options — all in an Egyptian Arabic street slang that leaves many adults in the country's conservative Muslim society befuddled and

Madinet el-Salam, one of the sprawling slums around Cairo. They started creating music at home, using an old computer with limited free programs they found online.

Mahraganat evolved from an earlier generation of youth music, known as "Shaabi," roughly translated as "popular," which originated in the 1970s, when working class musicians started producing their own sound. Shaabi singers were in part inspired by "moulids," or Islamic festivals that feature rhythmic music and mystical poetry, which they turned into raspy voiced songs about the common people infused by Egyptian humor. Mahraganat, sometimes called "Electro-Shaabi," has amped that sound up to addictive levels, with complex, fast-and-furious rhythms, rhymes and word-play, repeated hypnotically over and over.

It has tapped into a youth public that feels partially liberated — but not liberated enough — by the revolution that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011. The sound became popular in largely underground



Egyptian girls dance during a "Mahraganat" Arabic word for "festivals," concert by music singers, in Cairo, Egypt.

(AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty)

disapproving. "We have our own language that no one understands except for us," says Sadat. Sadat and his friends Fifty and Haha are among the biggest name stars of Mahraganat — their DJ names, of course, which they prefer to go by. The three, all in their early 20s, are childhood friends, neighbors in

clubs, with clips passed eagerly among fans on the Internet. With its atmosphere of drugs and sex it's still considered fringe. But it has made moves into the mainstream: It can be heard blaring from party boats on the Nile River and some Mahraganat singers now perform at weddings. □

Fight The Future



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Last week the International Monetary Fund, whose normal role is that of stern disciplinarian to spendthrift governments, gave the United States some unusual advice.

"Lighten up," urged the fund. "Enjoy life! Seize the day!"

OK, fund officials didn't use quite those words, but they came close, with an article in IMF Survey magazine titled "Ease Off Spending Cuts to Boost U.S. Recovery." In its more formal statement, the fund argued that the sequester and other forms of fiscal contraction will cut this year's U.S. growth rate by almost half, undermining what might otherwise have been a fairly vigorous recovery. And these spending cuts are both unwise and unnecessary.

Unfortunately, the fund apparently couldn't bring itself to break completely with the austerity talk that is regarded as a badge of seriousness in the policy world. Even while urging us to run bigger deficits for the time being, Christine Lagarde, the fund's head, called on us to "hurry up with putting in place a medium-term road map to restore long-run fiscal sustainability."

So here's my question: Why, exactly, do we need to hurry up? Is it urgent that we agree now on how we'll deal with fiscal issues of the 2020s, the 2030s and beyond?

No, it isn't. And in practice, focusing on "long-run fiscal sustainability" - which usually ends up being mainly about "entitlement reform," aka cuts to Social Security and other programs - isn't a way of being responsible.

On the contrary, it's an excuse, a way to avoid dealing with the severe economic problems we face right now.

What's the problem with focusing on the long run? Part of the answer - although arguably the least important part - is that the distant future is highly uncertain (surprise!) and that long-run fiscal projections should be seen mainly as an especially boring genre of science fiction.

In particular, projections of huge future deficits are to a large extent based on the assumption that health care costs will continue to rise substantially faster than national income - yet the growth in health costs has slowed dramatically in the last few years, and the long-run picture is already looking much less dire

than it did not long ago.

Now, uncertainty by itself isn't always a reason for inaction. In the case of climate change, for example, uncertainty about the impact of greenhouse gases on global temperatures actually strengthens the case for action, to head off the risk of catastrophe.

But fiscal policy isn't like climate policy, even though some people have tried to make the analogy (even as right-wingers who claim to be deeply concerned about long-term debt remain strangely indifferent to long-term environmental concerns). Delaying action on climate means releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere while we debate the issue; delaying action on entitlement reform has no comparable cost. In fact, the whole argument for early action on long-run fiscal issues is surprisingly weak and slippery.

As I like to point out, the conventional wisdom on these things seems to be that to avert the danger of future benefit cuts, we must act now to cut future benefits. And no, that isn't much of a caricature.

Still, while a "grand bargain" that links reduced austerity now to longer-run fiscal changes might not be necessary, does seeking such a bargain do any harm? Yes, it does.

For the fact is we aren't going to get that kind of deal - the country just isn't ready, politically. As a result, time and energy spent pursuing such a deal are time and energy wasted, which would be better spent trying to help the unemployed.

Put it this way: Republicans in Congress have voted 37 times to repeal health care reform, President Barack Obama's signature policy achievement.

Do you really expect those same Republicans to reach a deal with the president over the nation's fiscal future, which is closely linked to the future of federal health programs? Even if such a deal were somehow reached, do you really believe that the GOP would honor that deal if and when it regained the White House?

When will we be ready for a long-run fiscal deal? My answer is, once voters have spoken decisively in favor of one or the other of the rival visions driving our current political polarization. Maybe President Hillary Clinton, fresh off her upset victory in the 2018 midterms, will be able to broker a long-run budget compromise with chastened Republicans; or maybe demoralized Democrats will sign on to President Paul Ryan's plan to privatize Medicare.

Either way, the time for big decisions about the long run is not yet.

And because that time is not yet, influential people need to stop using the future as an excuse for inaction.

The clear and present danger is mass unemployment, and we should deal with it, now. □



Lesser Lights, Big City



FRANK BRUNI
© 2013 New York Times

Anthony Weiner's quixotic mayoral candidacy is clearly a bid for redemption, and just as clearly a way to sate his epic, boundless need to be noticed.

But it wasn't until I went to the Bronx for a candidates' forum last week that I realized another function the campaign serves for him. It's his cardio.

While the nine other contenders at a long conference table did what you'd expect and remained seated as they answered questions, Weiner alone shot to his feet whenever it was his turn to speak, an overeager suitor, an overbearing narcissist. He'd sink back into his chair when his allotted 60 seconds ran out, then rise anew when it was once again Weiner Time. Up, down, up, down: He was part jack-in-the-box, part aerobics instructor and all about Anthony.

When it wasn't Weiner Time, he made no pretense of caring about or even listening to what his rivals had to say. He'd bury his nose in the papers before him. He'd riffle through them. This despite several news items that had slammed him for similar behavior at a previous forum. For Weiner, rudeness isn't an oversight. It's a coat of arms.

He's a sad spectacle, but that may also make him the perfect

mascot for the unfolding mayoral race, which so far doesn't reflect the greatness of the city whose stewardship is up for grabs. This contest feels crass. It feels small. And it feels all the smaller because of the constant reminders of just how large a figure the departing mayor, Michael Bloomberg, both is and insists on being. He's just brought us bikes. He's determined to bring us composting. He means to vanquish smoking, he means to vanquish obesity and he's intent on protecting us from the ever stormier seas, after which he means to vanquish global warming itself.

Say what you will about him, he's a leader of formidable resolve and considerable boldness. And New York of all places needs that kind of swagger, those shades of grandiosity. Can any of his would-be successors provide them? Among many city denizens I know, I sense a justifiable worry, and sometimes an outright angst.

When they look at Christine Quinn, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination and the mayoralty itself, they see someone trying to thread so many needles she gets tangled in her own string.

She can't run as an extension of Bloomberg, not in a Democratic primary. But she can't run against his record, having played a key role in securing him a rule-busting third term.

As a woman, she often felt the need to emphasize her toughness. Then came Michael M. Grynbaum and David W. Chen's remarkable story in The Times about her vicious temper and her frequent outbursts, so loud that her City Hall office had to be soundproofed. So she tacked in a softer, more vulnerable direction, drawing attention to the revelations of bulimia and alcoholism in a just-published memoir whose "sentimentality and self-deprecating girlishness might leaven her image as a brash virago," Michelle Goldberg observed in The Daily Beast.

On Monday, however, the sentimentality and girlishness were gone as she gave a sharp-edged speech casting herself as a pol of proven dynamism in a field of pandering lightweights. It underscored yet another of the tricky calibrations in her Goldilocks campaign: what's too liberal, what's too moderate and what's just right (and also credible coming from her, a longtime Bloomberg ally).

To some extent, the race for the Democratic nomination - which pits Quinn and Weiner against Bill de Blasio, the public advocate, and Bill Thompson, the 2009 nominee, among others - has been an anachronistic sequence of genuflections before the teachers' union, black voters, Orthodox Jews, animal-rights advocates.

"It seems to me that this is a pre-1992, pre-Bill Clinton version of the Democratic Party, where the candidates dutifully troop before one narrow special-interest group after another and pledge fealty to whatever demands are in front of them," Howard Wolfson, a longtime Democratic strategist who is now a deputy mayor, told me Monday.

Wolfson credited Quinn more than others for straying on occasion from that timid and tedious script.

The field's lack of luster prompted Bloomberg last year to try to get Hillary Clinton to throw her pantsuit in the ring. And it has given rise to a belief among some political insiders and a few restless plutocrats that 2017 could be a ripe mayoral-election year for a political outsider interested in emulating Bloomberg's ascent into office. By then, the theory goes, the winner of 2013 will have failed.

That's a tad too cynical, although there's no overstating the current excitement deficit, which is of course another reason Weiner joined this sorry circus. He detected an underwhelmed audience whose attention could be riveted, even if he had to play the clown. □

A craft brewer chooses an unlikely pairing: archaeology

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CLEVELAND - The beer was full of bacteria, warm and slightly sour.

By contemporary standards, it would have been a spoiled batch here at Great Lakes Brewing Co., a craft beer maker based in Ohio, where machinery churns out bottle after bottle of dark porters and pale ales.

est ales ever made.

"It involves a huge amount of detective work and inference and pulling in information from other sources to try and figure it out," said Gil Stein, the director of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, which is ensuring the historical accuracy of the project. "We recognize that to get at really understanding these different aspects of

homes. During the rule of King Hammurabi, tavern owners were threatened with drowning if they dared to overcharge.

But for all the notes that Sumerians took about the ingredients and the distribution of their libations, no precise recipes have been found. Left behind were only cuneiform texts that vaguely hint at the brewing process, perhaps none

from prehistoric China, from ancient Egypt and from evidence found in what is believed to be the tomb of King Midas.

"Of different people who do fermented beverages, microbrewers are the most willing to experiment," McGovern said. "They're ready to try anything." Great Lakes has no plan to sell its brew, also based on the Hymn to Ninkasi, to the

bread" for use as a source of active yeast - by far the most difficult step in the process.

The archaeologists, who have committed their careers to studying Sumerian culture, said having professional brewers involved in the effort had helped them ask questions they had not considered.

"We keep going back to the evidence and finding new hints that can help us choose between different interpretations," said Tate Paulette, a doctoral student and a lead researcher on the project. "We are immersed in studying Mesopotamia, and this is a fundamental thing that we don't understand well enough."

While the project continues, Great Lakes' brewing vessels are already a popular addition to guided tours of the brewery. The company plans to showcase its Sumerian beer at events in Cleveland and Chicago by the end of this summer, offering a public tasting of the final brew alongside an identical recipe made with more current brewing techniques.

In the meantime, there is still some tweaking to do.

After months of experiments in the brewery's laboratory, Nate Gibbon, a brewer at Great Lakes, said he had stood over a ceramic vat on a recent Wednesday, cooking outside on a patch of grass. The fire that heated the vat was fueled by manure.

The batch, spiced with cardamom and coriander, fermented for two days, but it was ultimately too sour for the modern tongue, Gibbon said. Next time, he will sweeten it with honey or dates.

Without sophisticated cleaning systems to rid the vessels of natural bacteria, Mesopotamian imbibers might have been more familiar with the brew's unwanted vinegar flavor, archaeologists said. Yet even with the most educated guesswork, they said, the Sumerian palate might never be fully uncovered. □



Patrick Conway, the owner of Great Lakes Brewing Co., with staff at the brewery in Cleveland. Brewers at the company are working with archeologists from the University of Chicago to create an authentic Sumerian beer from 5,000 years ago – using only porcelain vessels, gravity and solar power.

(Michael F. McElroy/The New York Times)

But lately, Great Lakes has been trying to imitate a bygone era. Enlisting the help of archaeologists at the University of Chicago, the company has been trying for more than year to replicate a 5,000-year-old Sumerian beer using only clay vessels and a wooden spoon.

"How can you be in this business and not want to know from where your forefathers came with their formulas and their technology?" said Pat Conway, a co-owner of the company. As interest in artisan beer has expanded across the country, so have collaborations between scholars of ancient drink and independent brewers willing to help them resurrect lost recipes for some of the old-

the past, you have to work with people who know things that we don't."

There is an unresolved argument in academic circles about whether the invention of beer was the primary reason that people in Mesopotamia, considered the birthplace of Western civilization about 10,000 years ago, first became agriculturalists.

By about 3200 B.C., around the time the Sumerians invented the written word, beer had already held a significant role in the region's customs and myths. Sipped through a straw by all classes of society, it is also believed to have been a source of drinkable water and essential nutrients, brewed both in palaces and in average

more poetically than the Hymn to Ninkasi, the Sumerian goddess of beer.

The song, dated around 1800 B.C., had entranced modern brewers before. A brew based on the hymn was made as part of a partnership in the early 1990s between Anchor Brewing Co. in San Francisco and the University of Chicago, where a well-known interpretation of the text was translated in 1964.

Reproductions of ancient alcohols have since grown in popularity, largely through a partnership between the Dogfish Head Craft Brewery in Delaware and Patrick E. McGovern, an archaeological chemist at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Together, they have recreated beers

public. The project, unlike others that recreate old recipes on modern equipment, is an educational exercise more than anything else. It has been shaped by a volley of emails with Sumerian experts in Chicago as both sides try to better understand an "off the grid" approach that has proved more difficult than first thought.

In place of stainless steel tanks, the Oriental Institute gave the brewery ceramic vessels modeled after artifacts excavated in Iraq during the 1930s. In keeping with the archaeological evidence, the team successfully malted its own barley on the roof of the brew house. It also asked a Cleveland baker to help make a bricklike "beer